



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



Music teacher Scott Stone (on guitar) and students from the Creative Arts Charter School on Turk Street perform for Noe Valley teen Loren Schaller (seated, far right) to show their appreciation for donations she and her family have made to the school. Also attending to honor Schaller were Supervisor Bevan Dufty and the Mayor's Education Advisor Hydra Mendoza (seated next to Dufty). *Photo by Beverly Tharp*

'For Sale' Signs Abound in Noe

Buyers Fail to Budge Despite Glut in Housing Market

By Corrie M. Anders

For Sale" signs are everywhere in Noe Valley these days. It's hard to travel a block without seeing a real estate sign sprouting in a front yard or nailed to a building.

So what's going on? Isn't Noe the neighborhood where everybody wants to buy, no matter the price?

It's the economy, silly, to butcher a phrase used by former President Bill Clinton.

The swollen inventory of homes for sale this spring—the largest in recent years—is the legacy of last fall's mortgage meltdown and the near collapse of banking and lending systems around the globe.

Still reeling from the recession, and under no pressure that they won't be able to find the homes they want, buyers are cautious. They are taking their time signing contracts with home sellers, and driving hard bargains when they do.

That is not to say that buyers have dis-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Injured Teen Creates a Poster to Benefit Arts in Schools

By Lorraine Sanders

May was a memorable month for Hoffman Avenue high school student Loren Schaller. On May 1, the 17-year-old Bay School junior received a series of official proclamations—from city supervisors, the Mayor's Office, and the Board of Education—for a project she created to benefit arts programs in San Francisco public schools. Eight days

later, she attended her first prom. Then Memorial Day weekend brought a long-awaited trip to San Jose's AnimeCon, a convention that each year attracts some 10,000 costumed fans of Japanese art and animation and for which Schaller had been sewing since the summer before.

"I really like making costumes. Also, it's a social thing. I get to go with my friends, and I really like anime," she says.

Taken alone, these events would have

been enough to stir anyone's emotions. But another May milestone made them even more poignant.

On May 19, Loren and her parents, Linda and Tim Schaller, arrived at the two-year anniversary of the severe attack Loren suffered as she stood in line at Creighton's Bakery on Portola Drive. Her attacker, a mentally disturbed man, was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Rental Prices Down, At Least Temporarily

By Corrie M. Anders

This spring, renters have been finding it easier and cheaper to make Noe Valley their home.

"There's a fairly good supply of rentals in Noe Valley right now," said J.J. Panzer, a broker and property manager with Real Management Company on Castro Street.

Rental prices also have declined, though not precipitously, he said. "You can't just put stuff on the market and have it rented [anymore]."

In late May, Panzer was pricing some newly vacant units at 10 percent below

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Lessons Learned As a 'Stay-at-Home' Dad

Jeremy Adam Smith Writes a Book on Shared Parenting

By Olivia Boler

Take a walk down 24th Street on a weekday morning or early afternoon, and chances are you'll see babies and children on their way to Noe Courts playground or heading into Peasant Pies for a snack. The kids are probably with their moms or nannies, but more often these days, a father is the one pushing the stroller. According to Noe Valley author Jeremy Adam Smith, the stay-at-home dad is a trend that is only growing.

Smith's first book, *The Daddy Shift: How Stay-at-Home Dads, Breadwinning Moms, and Shared Parenting Are Transforming the American Family*, published by Beacon Press and released the first of this month, is both a study and a contemplation of this trend.

"It's about what happens when men stay home taking care of the kids, and mothers are the ones supporting the fam-



Stay at home? Four-year-old Liko Smith-Doo would rather be out and about with his mom Shelly "Olli" Doo and his dad Jeremy Adam Smith, author of *The Daddy Shift*.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

ilies, and what has made it possible for men and women to switch roles," says Smith. The book combines interviews of fathers from around the country with a look at the social evolution of parenting.

Not surprisingly, Smith has had a stint

as a stay-at-home father. For one year, he was the primary caregiver for his son, Liko, who will turn 5 in July.

"In 2005, I deliberately scaled back on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Contents

Books to Read	45
Calendar	28-29
Class Ads	48-49
Cost of Living in Noe	21
Police Beat	23
Crossword	17
The Last Page	56
Letters	6
More Groups	54
Neighborhood Services	46-47
Rumors Behind the News	51
Short Takes	33
School Report	43
Store Trek	37

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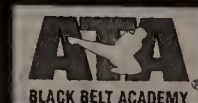


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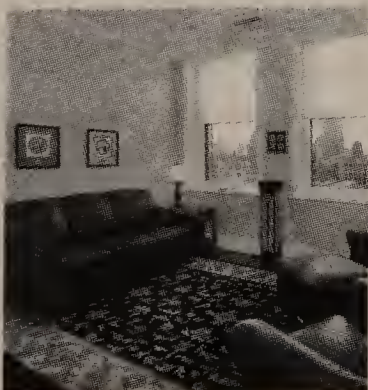
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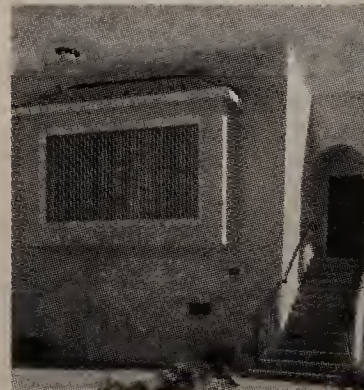
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A Shallow Ploy

Editor:

Re "Where the Sidewalk Ends...Perhaps Not Where You Think," May 2009 *Voice*: I received a ticket while my car was parked in my own driveway and pulled all the way up into my own property, leaving the sidewalk completely clear for any passersby, wheelchairs included.

We have lived at this address for 15 years, parking our car occasionally in our driveway with absolutely no indication from the city or the neighbors that this was a problem, because we do not block the sidewalk in any way. After all these years, to suddenly get a sizeable ticket for an infraction never indicated as an issue seems a shallow ploy by the city to raise revenue at the expense of homeowners and neighborhood goodwill.

Josie Iselin
29th Street

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Olivia Boler, *Last Page Editor*
Corrie M. Anders, *Associate Editor*
Heidi Anderson, *Associate Editor*
Karol Barske, Helen Colgan, Chrissy Elgersma,
Jan Goben, Liz Highleyman, John Hohulin,
Laura McHale Holland, Florence Holub, Jeff Kaliss,
Doug Konecky, Pat Rose, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz,
Lorraine Sanders, Karen Topakian,
Kate Volkman, Heather World

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Pamela Gerard, *Photo Editor*
Beverly Tharp, *Senior Photographer*
Jan Brittonson, Leo Holub,
Ken Newman, Paula Whitehead

ILLUSTRATION
Karol Barske

PRODUCTION

Jon Elkin, Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

DISTRIBUTION

Misha Yagudin, Clare Sullivan, Jack Tipple

WEB DESIGN
Elliot Poger

ADVERTISING SALES

Steve Steinberg, *Advertising Manager*

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LETTERS 44¢

Punitive Parking Fines

Editor:

The reason technical violations of parking regulations are resulting in Noe Valley residents being hit with steep fines lies in the city budget. Our budget this year is \$6.5 billion. The money has to come from somewhere, eh?

Common sense tells us those cars pictured on the front page of the May issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* are not impeding pedestrians. But, where parking regulations were once used to promote safety and order, they must now be used to generate revenue. And that results in the punitive parking fines for our neighbors on Clipper Street.

I don't mind paying top dollar for city services, but the real insult is that we're not getting good value from this revenue. The parks are poorly maintained, the streets are full of potholes, Muni is late and overcrowded, public health services are being cut, and recreation center hours are being trimmed.

Yes, San Francisco has world-class restaurants and beautiful city views. But we pay for the former and the latter are free. If we want topnotch city services, a responsible budget, and sensible parking enforcement, then we must hold our supervisors accountable.

Leonard Graff
Church Street

Ugly Bunkers Instead?

Editor:

I live in the Castro, and we had the same problem as mentioned in your parking story, with a neighbor calling the police on us for parking in our driveway. In that case, the police would ticket only us, not the neighbors up the street nor the ones down. It happened at 9 p.m. once when I was parked there 20 minutes, till finally we moved the garage door in to make the driveway deeper. That solved the problem. The car doesn't stick out.

The law should be a minimum number of inches needed to clear. Our sidewalk, even blocked, is wider than our neighbor's across the street, yet they were given a permit to extend their garage out. When I called City Planning, they said sure, you can get one too. So the city's proposal is to make ugly bunkers in front of everyone's houses?

What about all the streets with cement planter boxes on the sidewalks? This is selective enforcement that amounts to harassment.

At some point, people are going to say enough and just move out of the city. We considered it over the driveway issue.

Tom Flinn

A Job for the Mayor

Editor:

Thank you for the comprehensive article in the May issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* on parking tickets being issued to residents and homeowners who foolishly think they can park in front of their own homes.

The article points out that it is California law, not city law, that prohibits vehicles from being parked on any part of a sidewalk. So the city says there is nothing it can do but issue tickets to those who break the law. California—and every other state in the union—reserves the right to issue marriage licenses. Yet that did not prevent the City and County of San Francisco from defiantly issuing its own.

Since City Hall has a precedent of selectively enforcing state laws, this sidewalk parking issue would seem to be a popular one to modify to local needs. I understand that sidewalks are to provide "access for everyone." But as the article mentions, some of these sidewalks are wide enough to park a car, and still have room for *tandem* wheelchairs to pass. Others, such as the one in front of my home, are not accessible at either end without going into the street anyway—while a perfectly flat, totally accessible, car-free sidewalk exists on the opposite side of the street. Where is the harm to the public good if people park on sidewalks in front of their homes in these instances?

Our mayor wants to be governor. Supporting a modification of this unbending state regulation would certainly be a popular move in his hometown. If, however, the true reason for enforcing this law is to raise extra revenue from those already paying property taxes, well, that's a different matter for voters to consider, isn't it?

Steven Short
Corona Heights

Where to Put Your Stimulus Pay

Editor:

I'm a Noe Valley resident and "senior" who just received his \$250 Economic Stimulus Payment. I immediately took half of it, \$125, to our own 30th Street Senior Center, which provides wonderful services, including an exercise program and hot meals at lunch, to Noe Valley and Mission seniors.

It's my very own Noe Valley economic

stimulus payment to a neighborhood non-profit that helps all of us.

If you also received a Social Security stimulus payment, please consider donating some of it to help continue the services at the 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th Street, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Tom Peck
Sanchez Street

Good Works from Auto Works

Editor:

The economy is terrible, people are in bad moods, and road rage is rampant. To add to that, I am a single mother who was laid off on Oct. 31, my house caught fire on March 27, and then on April 2, the brakes went out on my car. Too much was going on for me to be upset, so I called Noe Valley Auto Works and took my car in immediately—I had gone to them for years and they had always been fair and honest. A couple of hours later, I found out that my car also needed \$400 worth of other work. As I swallowed down panic, I explained what was going on in my life—I was not complaining, just explaining why I needed my car—and said I could not afford anything that was not absolutely necessary. As usual, they called me back and told me not to worry—some of the things could wait and they would only do what was necessary.

I was thinking the worst when I went to pick up the car, credit card in hand, ready to hold back tears and fears. Instead, all I owed for was the brakes. They had done all of the other work, but in place of an amount due, they wrote on the bill, "Sorry to hear about your misfortune. Hopefully this will be the start of good fortune in the future."

Even without this event, I had referred people to Noe Valley Auto Works, but I do believe that this act of kindness should be acknowledged, and in a big way. This simple act helped turn around my view of the world. No longer a victim, I was able to continue to look for a job and start rebuilding my house. More importantly, I am a better mother to my son and proud to be able to show him what simple acts of kindness can do.

Noe Valley Auto Works deserves attention for this. They are truly a part of the Noe Valley community that cares about people.

Sinda Allen

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OP ED

Noe Valley No Longer Immune from the Housing Slump

By Misha Weidman

It's been comforting to think that Noe Valley's home prices have held up better than the city's as a whole. In fact, a real estate agent was quoted as saying as much in a recent edition of the *Noe Valley Voice*.

I beg to differ, and I believe I have the data to prove it. Below is a chart that tracks the monthly percentage changes in single-family home prices in Noe Valley from the all-time high, and compares them to the percentage changes for the city as a whole. The chart is based on sales data drawn directly from the San Francisco Association of Realtors' Multiple Listing Service (MLS) for Subdistrict 5C, an area roughly bounded by Guerrero, 30th Street, Diamond Heights Boulevard, Portola, and 22nd Street.

In March 2009, Noe Valley home prices were down nearly 30 percent from their all-time high of \$1.63 million, reached just a year earlier in March 2008. April 2009 home prices recovered 8 percent of that drop, leaving Noe Valley prices down 22 percent, slightly better than the city as a whole.

However, it's worth noting that there were only four sales in April, and none of them were in the usual price range. Two homes sold for over \$2 million. The other two sold for \$875,000 and \$585,000—cheap by Noe Valley standards.

All statistical measures become less reliable as the number of data points shrinks. I use a three-month moving average of median values to

minimize the effect of aberrational sales and seasonal fluctuations. Still, with only four sales occurring during the month, I wouldn't take too much comfort from April's apparent bounce.

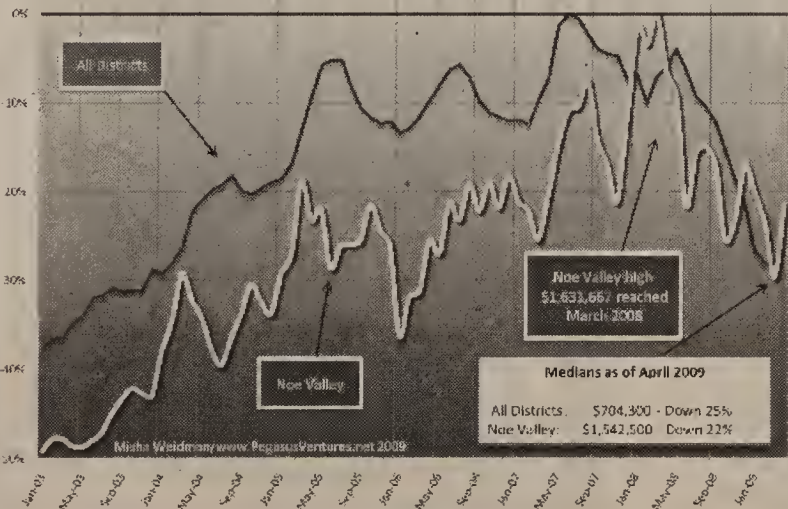
So does that mean that *your* house has lost 25 to 30 percent of its value? Maybe, but only if you bought your house in March 2008 at or near that month's median value. Otherwise, you're really speculating about the difference between how much you might have made if you'd sold at the market's peak versus today.

And is Noe Valley doing better than the city as a whole? Not anymore. The chart clearly shows that Noe Valley's prices held up for around nine months longer than the city's at large, but that they've now dropped about as far on a relative basis.

Need some good news? The median price for a Noe Valley home, based on sales for all of 2008, was \$1,380,500. Even with March's abysmal showing, the median price based on sales through April 2009 is \$1,195,000. That means we're off only 13.4 percent for the year. Feel better now?

Misha Weidman is an independent real estate broker and attorney. He also blogs at his site www.pegasusventures.net. From 2005 to 2008, he wrote the online *Cities Guide* to San Francisco for *London's Economist* newspaper. He has lived in Noe Valley for 18 years.

Noe Valley vs. San Francisco - All Districts: Percentage Change from All-Time High (3 month Moving Average)



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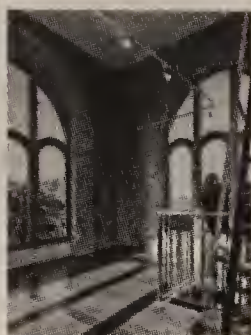
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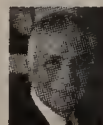
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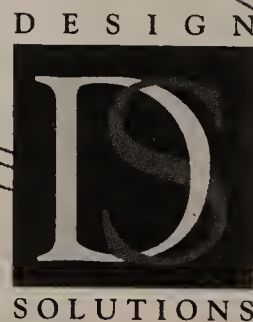


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Backlog of Homes For Sale

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

appeared from the Noe Valley landscape. They haven't. In fact, real estate agents contend that housing activity picked up a bit during the second half of May, especially for properties with price tags under \$1 million or over \$2 million.

Howard Reinstein, manager of the Clipper Street office of McGuire Real Estate, cited the example of a fixer-upper in the mid-\$900,000 range that attracted nine bidders. "It's a good sign," he said.

Randall Kostick, general manager at Zephyr Real Estate, said he was seeing "large populations of people going through open houses" during weekend tours. "I don't know if they're buying, but they're out looking," he said.

Loans Harder to Get

Nonetheless, there remain a lot of properties on the market. Kostick noted there were 68 Noe Valley homes for sale in April, the last month for which full data was available. That figure was nearly double the 37 homes on the market in April of last year and nearly triple the sparse 25 homes for sale in April of 2007, when properties were snapped up in less than 20 days.

"The number of 'days on market' has almost doubled," said Ben Coleman, owner of Century 21 Hartford Properties.

He said the slow pace of sales was due in part to the difficulty of obtaining loans in Noe Valley, where million-dollar homes are the norm.

"First of all, the bottom fell out of our financial markets, and you couldn't get loans" for high-end homes, Coleman said.

Since the bubble burst, lenders have imposed far tougher standards for so-called "jumbo" loans—those higher than \$729,750.

"It's a tougher nut to crack, and you need a higher income," said Coleman of the more stringent loan requirements. "So with job losses and people concerned about where their next meal is going to be and where they're going to live, [buyers] have been reluctant to take a step forward."

Some Properties Still Overpriced

Since Jan. 1, Bay Area high-tech companies have slashed more than 11,000 jobs, and Noe Valley has a large population of residents who work in the industry. So could lost jobs and foreclosures explain the newest crop of real estate signs in Noe Valley?

"I don't think it's a job-loss issue," said Coleman.

Instead, he and other real estate agents classify the stock of homes for sale as:

- Homes that have sat unsold for several months, some of them since last year;
- Properties whose owners have the time to wait in anticipation that the economic situation will improve and reward them with higher prices; and
- Homes that hit the market each spring—a seasonal occurrence. Their owners time their sales so they can move during the summer.

A few of the properties in the first category may be languishing because they are overpriced. A buyer purchased a Duncan Street home in April after it had slumbered on the market for nearly six months. The final price paid was \$2.4 million, almost 16 percent below the \$2,850,000 asking price.

The 22nd Street home of the late Noe Valley artist Mark Adams has been on the market for a year. The unusual property is a former fire station that had been renovated into a four-bedroom, four-bath home, while keeping the brass fire pole. Its price has recently been reduced from the original \$6,375,000 to \$5,975,500.

Hope Springs Eternal

As potential homebuyers and the simply curious trooped through an open house on Jersey Street one recent Sunday, Zephyr real estate agent Stefano DeZerega noted that he was seeing more owners who were starting to feel comfortable about selling their homes.

They "have been sitting on the sidelines a little bit, waiting to see what was going to happen. That was last fall and winter when things really slowed down," DeZerega said. "Now I think that some people feel that we've hit bottom, and we're heading up and they can get a good price."

Jamie Howell, office manager at Hill & Company's 24th Street branch, agrees.

"In January and February, even March and April, people tended to shy away from listing in a marketplace that was driven by negative emotions," he said. "I think what we saw was fear of pink slips, a fear of the bear market on Wall Street continuing, of big corporations and Detroit falling apart."

But as confidence in the economy has started to return, he said, "people began to list again."

Two owners who listed their properties in May through Howell's office looked like seasonal sellers. One was the owner of a \$549,000 Dolores Street condominium who was relocating to Palm Springs, and the other was an "empty-nest" couple downsizing from their 27th Street home, priced at just under \$1.7 million.

"There are some prime opportunities out there," said Coleman, with the typical exuberance of a real estate salesman. ■

Good Time to Look For a Rental

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the previous tenants' rent.

"It has a lot to do with the economy," he explained. "I'm not seeing a lot of people coming in with out-of-town jobs like they used to. Before, they had six-figure incomes and were moving here to work with high-tech or pharmaceutical companies, and took whatever I could give them."

The trend toward lower rents also showed up in a *Voice* survey of listings on Craigslist.org, the online want-ad service.

During the first week of May, the average asking rent for a studio apartment was \$1,335 a month, down \$164 (10.9%) from \$1,499 a year earlier. Landlords sought an average \$1,853 for a one-bedroom unit, which was a \$100 drop or 5.1 percent below \$1,953 a year ago. It was a similar story for two-bedroom apartments, which carried an asking rent of \$2,776—down \$240 or 8 percent from the \$3,016 owners wanted 12 months ago. (For additional comparisons, see "A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents," page 21.)

Dennis Etorma, property manager for Saxe Real Estate on Van Ness Avenue, agrees with Panzer that economic stress

has curbed the once full-throttle demand for rentals in Noe Valley. He's seen a number of tenants move after losing jobs with high-tech and bio-tech companies.

"We have a few tenants who are being laid off from Google," Etorma said. In the past, Noe Valley attracted so many Google employees that some residents called the neighborhood "Googleville."

Etorma said a few former tenants are moving into less expensive digs or into larger spaces where they could double up and share costs. They also are moving to the East Bay, where rents are less expensive, he said.

There's no telling how long renters will continue to have, as Etorma put it, "a choice of locations they can afford" in Noe Valley. That's because both Etorma and Panzer think the rental market is starting to heat up again.

"The [spring] season for rentals took off a little later than I'd expected," Panzer said. "I expected it to start around the middle of April, and it didn't start until the middle of May." ■



2000 photo with daughter Christie

Marion Seabrook "Brook" Smith, 1952–2009
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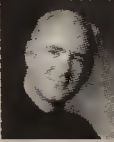
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Loren Schaller a Poster Teen for Arts in Schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mistakenly released from San Quentin Prison and given a bus ticket to San Francisco, where he encountered Schaller, a complete stranger, and stabbed her repeatedly. Also involved in the incident were local residents Kermit Kubitz, who fought Thomas off and suffered wounds as a result; Dr. Sang-ick Chang, who came to the victims' aid; and Jonas Svallin, who chased Thomas on foot as he fled the scene. The Schallers remain in contact with all three and still call them "the heroes."

As a result of the attack, Schaller temporarily lost the use of her right arm and underwent multiple surgeries, including a nine-and-a-half-hour nerve transplant performed at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Since then, her arm has not fully recovered, but has improved significantly. Lifting the arm is still difficult, as is sustaining movement for long periods of time. She continues to get physical therapy once a week.

"She's probably got 65 to 70 percent back. It's not ever going to be what it was, but it's not paralyzed," says Linda Schaller.

If her arm's lack of movement bothers Loren, an artist who's been drawing and painting since she was a small child, she doesn't let it show.

"Usually, when I draw, I have it in my lap. When I have to paint on an easel in class, I have to hold it up," Loren ex-



Loren Schaller and mom Linda Schaller (accompanied by dad Tim Schaller, not shown) had a memorable May 1, as Loren received four proclamations from city and school officials.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

plains, matter-of-factly demonstrating how she positions her arm when she puts brush to canvas.

At least one painting Loren has done since the attack has gained recognition that extends far beyond her home or classroom.

Begun as a final project for a class she took during her sophomore year, Loren's painting depicts hands reaching toward an airborne paper airplane set against a blue background. Although she first considered selling the painting to raise funds to benefit arts in public schools, she soon landed on another tactic: turning the painting into a poster. Reproducing the image on posters would allow the fundraising effort a much wider scope than a single painting, she reasoned. The finished poster contains the phrase, "Reach for Creativity: Support the Arts in Public Schools."

"I thought it would be something that could keep on making money," she says.

The first print run raised \$300, which Loren Schaller decided to donate to the Creative Arts Charter School, a public elementary and middle school in the Western Addition that integrates music and art into its curriculum. The Schaller family has since given the school non-exclusive rights to reprint and sell the poster to raise future funds.

"We really struggle as a community-based charter school to continue to fund the arts to the level that we do, so the donation meant a lot that way," says John Perry, vice president of Creative Arts' board. "But for the kids it really was a validation from somebody just ahead of them and young and cool that the arts are really essential and really important."

The project prompted the school to honor Loren during a special presentation. Along with Loren's family and friends, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, Board of Education President Kim-Shree Maufus, and the Mayor's Education Advisor Hydra Mendoza were all in attendance. Loren received four letters of proclamation, each framed and bound.

"I feel so official," she deadpans good-naturedly before offering the ornate certificates up for inspection.

With the end of her school year approaching and an exciting four-week summer program in Japan on the horizon, the last thing Loren wants to dwell on these days is the 2007 attack and her family's subsequent ordeal.

"It's not something that bothers me in daily life. It seems far away," she says.

But that chapter in the Schallers' lives is far from closed.

Next month, the Schallers will head

back to the courtroom for a criminal hearing on Loren's assailant, Scott Thomas, who has yet to be convicted of a crime as a result of the attack. Earlier this year, a Superior Court judge dismissed a lawsuit the Schallers brought against the state for failing to treat Thomas's apparent psychiatric disorders while in prison and for releasing him under conditions that violated California Corrections Department policies.

"I want this chapter of our lives to be closed, and until he's given a conviction and put back into prison, it's not closed," Linda Schaller says.

And even then, she admits that the event will never completely be excised from their lives.

"The cold reality is, every x number of years, we will be a part of the parole hearing to keep him in jail. We are never really off the hook. It's sort of like it's become a permanent fixture in our lives," says Linda.

If the hearing results in a trial, Loren will be asked to testify.

Loren awaits her courtroom appearance with equal parts nonchalance and curiosity.

"I have sort of mixed feelings. I think it's going to be boring, but I'm sort of morbidly curious to see what the guy looks like, because I've forgotten," she says.

Meanwhile, Loren is looking forward to finishing up her junior year and leaving for Japan, where she'll build upon her Japanese language skills and learn more about the country whose art and culture so fascinate her.

Physical recovery, Loren admits, has taken longer than she expected it would, but her outlook on life remains unchanged.

"I think, as far as mindset goes, I'm probably the same as I always was," she says.



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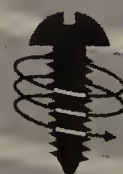
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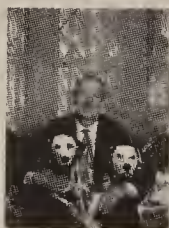


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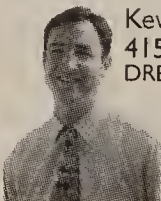


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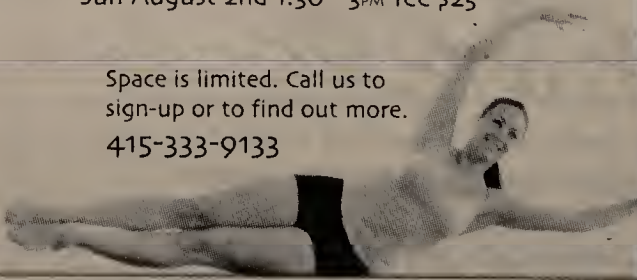
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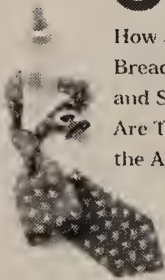
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work,” says Smith, 39. “I left my fulltime job and took on some consulting. Being a parent was still very novel then. My son was a year old, and I wanted to know, Who is this little guy?”

Smith had been a deputy director at the nonprofit Independent Press Association. His wife, Olli Doo, went back to work as a teacher, and Smith found himself embarking on something he describes as not “special or exceptional. My attitude was, This is a temporary thing that I’m doing. I thought of it in terms of skill acquisition. I thought, It’ll be good to bond with my kid for a little while, then go back to work.”

THE DADDY SHIFT

How Stay-at-Home Dads, Breadwinning Moms, and Shared Parenting Are Transforming the American Family



Jeremy Adam Smith

Jeremy Adam Smith’s book *The Daddy Shift* is both a memoir and a study of the changing perceptions of stay-at-home dads.

His new role had definite pluses. “Liko and I learned how to eat, sleep, grow, and play together, and I gained new confidence in taking care of him and being a parent. I was also able to get to know other parents on the playgrounds, and build a new community for my family,” Smith says, adding that he wouldn’t trade that experience for the world.

But the shift in family dynamics triggered some huge internal changes and challenges for Smith and Doo. “It was a struggle for Olli, being separated from Liko,” Smith says. “And I struggled with the daily minutiae and stress of responding to his needs. It changed my view of relationships between men and women and how family life is structured.”

There was also the response from the couple’s families. “For a lot of our relatives, what we were doing was strange and exotic. Some were very hostile and said we were being irresponsible. But amongst our circle of friends it was not a big deal.”

Smith asked himself why this was so and started to do a lot of reading—during Liko’s nap time of course—about the history of the family and American family life. “I read two hours a day for six months. At the end, I had a realization that for my grandfather’s generation, and to a lesser degree for my father’s, the definition of a father’s [duty] was breadwinning and a mom’s was to take care of the kids.”

He also began writing about his experiences. One of the fathers he befriended while taking Liko to the playground offered the phrase “stay-at-home dad.” Smith googled it and found a series of blogs written by other stay-at-home dads. “I realized there were a lot of guys having similar struggles. And I thought, I can do this! So I did.”

He started his own blog, Daddy Dialectic (www.daddy-dialectic.blogspot.com), from his home on Castro Street. “It

Excerpt from *The Daddy Shift* by Jeremy Adam Smith

“Unfortunately, nature is very much a now-you-see-it, now-you-don’t affair,” writes Annie Dillard in *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. This is equally true of life in cities. It is also true of parenting. All three are intricate worlds unto themselves, containers of consciousness, definers of perception; but we are never quite able to hold them in our senses. As soon as we wrap our minds around nature, cities, and children, they exceed the limits we think we’ve set for them.

When Liko was fourteen months old—after I had been taking care of him for two months—San Francisco seemed to shift constantly in and out of focus, and so did my son, as he scrambled up the ladder of a baby’s developmental stages, and I scrambled to follow him. The babble from Liko’s mouth sharpened into words, the syllables flashing like sunlight on windows. We’d cross the street and on the other side, he’d seem suddenly older....

Every month or so, we’d take the F train downtown to the Museum of Modern Art, where once Liko demonstrated new speed and mobility by racing across the gallery and knocking over a six-foot sculpture of a paper airplane—which I caught just before it hit the floor. Summoning as much dignity as possible before a score of shocked museum patrons, I set the giant paper airplane back on its dais, took Liko by the hand, and walked at a stately pace into the next gallery.

On cool, sunny afternoons I’d put Liko in his backpack, and together we’d hike to the top of Twin Peaks, the mammarian mountain that swells at the center of San Francisco. Sitting on a rock, he’d survey the city like a wide-eyed prince, and each time he seemed to understand a little more of what he was seeing. “Clouds,” he said, pointing up. “Bridge,” he said later, peering at the fog-touched Golden Gate Bridge. I had feared that he’d never start talking. Now, I felt a little tremor of excitement with each new word.

Through these urban adventures I struggled to understand what the hell I wanted out of life. My desire to take care of Liko warred with a drive—augmented by financial need—to claw my way to the next stage of my career. I had wandered off the beaten career path, babe in arms, and I wasn’t sure how to find it again, or if I even wanted to.... On playgrounds, I seldom spoke with other parents, because I didn’t feel like one of them. I certainly didn’t call myself a “stay-at-home dad” or anything like that. In fact, I passively resisted every category and could hardly bring myself to describe to strangers who I was or what I did. I was alone with Liko on a mountain, looking down at everything, and at that point I didn’t want to come down.

Published with author’s permission from The Daddy Shift: How Stay-at-Home Dads, Breadwinning Moms, and Shared Parenting Are Transforming the American Family, by Jeremy Adam Smith (Beacon Press, 2009).

was a real challenge to write about this stuff at first because I was writing about myself,” Smith says.

Soon, the blog evolved into a group blog, with several contributors, and Smith began working as an editor at *Greater Good* magazine. He also wrote pieces for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and London’s *Guardian*, and the June 2006 issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*.

He now sees the early blog entries as a training ground for *The Daddy Shift*.

“Some of the things I wrote early on in the blog proved to be wrong both empirically and through my own experience,” he says with a laugh. “Like, in the first entry, I say that being a stay-at-home parent is a luxury of the affluent, but it’s actually not.”

Smith discovered later in his research that most families with one parent at home do so because of economic necessity. “The lower down the economic ladder you go, you’re more likely to see families with a stay-at-home parent. It all has to do with the cost of childcare. Subsidies aren’t available here in the U.S., and that’s why one parent stays home and parents often get trapped into one role, either breadwinner or caretaker.” With unemployment rates rising, Smith expects even more fathers will be the primary caregivers for their kids, especially if their partners are still employed.

These days, Smith says. “It’s true for a lot of guys my age that parenting roles can be negotiated, depending on the proclivities of the individual parents. That’s dif-

ferent than it was for past generations, but it creates a lot of challenges. Fathers are facing a lot of pressure about their roles, and it’s a confusing situation.”

Smith’s own situation could be changing soon. He expects to be laid off at *Greater Good* this summer, though he’ll continue to work as a co-editor for two books, *The Compassionate Instinct* and *Are We Born Racist?*, both to be published in 2010.

“Since I started working at *Greater Good*,” Smith says, “Olli has been Liko’s primary caregiver. When I get laid off, Olli will go back to work running a preschool. I’m definitely looking forward to spending time with Liko again. I’m not looking forward to possibly starving and being homeless!” he jokes.

Whatever the future brings, his hours on *The Daddy Shift*—both the book and the childcare—will have been well spent. “[Shared parenting] is a good thing and it’s new, and we don’t quite know how to finesse it, but we’re getting there.” ■

Cover to Cover Booksellers at 1307 Castro Street will host a launch party for Smith and The Daddy Shift on Saturday, June 6, at 7 p.m. Copies are also available at Phoenix Books, 3850 24th Street.



CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Sandwich Fillers

ACROSS

1. Data storage medium
5. "Milk" Oscar winner
9. Monickers
14. Division preposition
15. 1970s tennis champ Nastase
16. Atmosphere layer
17. Improved in a wine cellar
18. Defeatist's word
19. Deluxe accommodations
20. (Filler 1:) Where many New York, N.Y., flights actually land
23. Korean automaker
24. ___ Mahal
25. La la lead-in
26. Jerusalem's land: Abbr.
29. Big test
32. Solemn promise
34. (Filler 2:) Mum of Prince Charles
39. Equinox mo.
40. Chicken - king connection
41. Looks over
43. (Filler 3:) Pedicurist's tool
48. Essence of tofu
49. '70s hairstyle
50. Yale grad
51. Blind ___ bat
54. "Nightline" host Koppel
56. Corn unit
58. What, in Noe Valley, this puzzle's fillers are sandwiched between
65. Throng
66. Diva's specialty
67. Be in pain
68. Junipero ___
69. Departed
70. Goatee's locale

DOWN

1. Gorilla watcher Fossey
2. "Picnic" playwright William
3. Cook with simmering heat
4. Eastman trademark
5. Miner's tool
6. Distinctive flair
7. First digit in a California zip code
8. Cereal box fig.
9. Rhinoplasty
10. Cote d'___ (French Riviera)
11. Like a towelette
12. PC key above Shift
13. "Ta-ta"
21. Nothing, in Nantes
22. Coffee, slangily
26. High numbers for Mensa members
27. Bird feeder food
28. "___ Man" (1984 cult film)
30. Jai ___ (Basque game)
31. "Pollyanna's" Hayley
33. Shed tears
35. French seasons
36. Pres. Taylor, to friends
37. Use a keyboard
38. Command to a dog
42. ___ Lanka
44. Place to jot a grocery list
45. Yesterday in the Yucatan
46. Secrete milk
47. "Frankenstein" helper
51. Feeling of anxiety
52. More certain
53. "That's ___" (Dean Martin classic)
55. Starts of card games
57. Strand of sand
59. Char
60. Eins plus zwei
61. Separate, as flour
62. Canyon effect
63. "___ little piggy..."
64. Shipped off

Solution on Page 45

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What Mrs. Moro Did Today. On May 21, the children of St. Paul's School were treated to a BMX Bike Show as a reward for their fundraising efforts. Second-Grade teacher Carol Moro volunteered to help with one of the stunts and later received an award for bravery.

Photo by Tess Manoos

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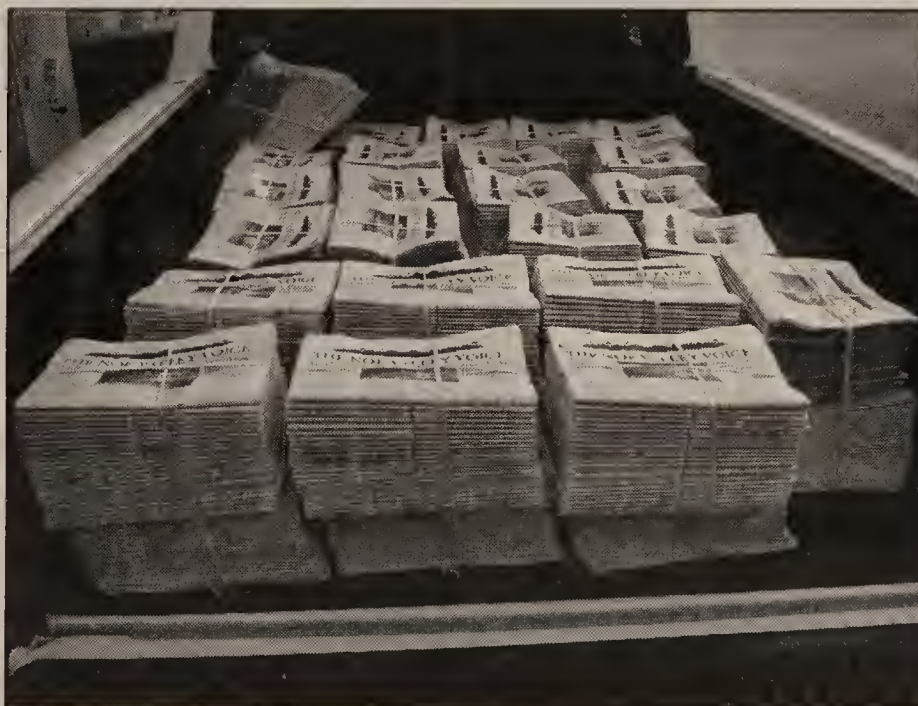
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Home Sales Dry Up in April

By Corrie M. Anders

The sale of single-family homes in Noe Valley came to a virtual standstill in April, as only three properties closed escrow during the month. Condominium sales also were modest.

The listless activity was unusual for an April. Over the previous decade, at least 10 single-family homes were sold during the month, reaching a zenith of 23 sales in April of 2004.

The dramatic decline—from nine sales in March—surprised Randall Kostick, general sales manager for Zephyr Real Estate, whose firm supplies monthly sales data to the *Voice*.

“I don’t know how to explain that,” Kostick said, adding that the three sales might have been an anomaly. “Nothing happened that would have dropped the volume by one third.”

Statistical fluke or not, the data showed a continuing slowdown in housing activity in the neighborhood. Buyers took far longer to close escrow—an average of 99 days in April ’09, contrasted with 17 days a year earlier. And buyers typically paid 2 percent under the sellers’ asking price. In 2008, they bid prices up 4 percent more than the original price.

The most expensive home sold in April was a \$2,400,000 Victorian/modern hybrid, which had sat on the market for 172 days (with a price tag of \$2,850,000). The home, five bedrooms with 5.5 baths and 3,200 square feet of living space, is located in the 300 block of Duncan Street between Church and Sanchez streets.

The four condos that changed hands in April were considerably cheaper, averaging around \$900,000. But condo deals typically took four months to complete—far longer than a year ago, when buyers picked up the keys to their new homes in about one month. Condo buyers in April also did not feel compelled to overbid—paying 98 percent of the asking price. A year earlier, they paid 5 percent more than the list price.

Buyers paid \$1,155,000 for the most expensive condo, a two-bedroom, 2.5-bath unit with 1,400 square feet, located in the 900 block of Elizabeth Street between Hoffman and Grand View.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
April 2009	3	\$875,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,828,333	99	98%
March 2009	9	\$575,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,204,889	77	94%
April 2008	10	\$935,000	\$2,200,000	\$1,534,000	17	104%
Condominiums						
April 2009	4	\$665,000	\$1,155,000	\$911,000	124	98%
March 2009	5	\$435,000	\$859,000	\$634,600	43	99%
April 2008	7	\$800,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,174,000	31	105%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
April 2009	2	\$1,048,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,299,000	147	99%
March 2009	1	\$730,000	\$730,000	\$730,000	27	94%
April 2008	3	\$1,500,000	\$1,575,000	\$1,550,000	37	105%
5+ -unit buildings						
April 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
April 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data.

NV 6/09

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range May 2009	Average May 2009	Average April 2009	Average May 2008
Studio	9	\$1,000 – \$1,995	\$1,335 / mo.	\$1,494 / mo.	\$1,499 / mo.
1-bdrm	25	\$1,350 – \$2,200	\$1,853 / mo.	\$1,916 / mo.	\$1,953 / mo.
2-bdrm	44	\$1,800 – \$5,500	\$2,776 / mo.	\$2,754 / mo.	\$3,016 / mo.
3-bdrm	18	\$2,799 – \$9,500	\$4,158 / mo.	\$4,330 / mo.	\$4,234 / mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$3,995 – \$6,500	\$5,532 / mo.	\$6,800 / mo.	\$5,940 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 102 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from April 30 to May 8, 2009.

NV 6/09

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POLICE BEAT

The Noe Valley Voice thanks Mission Police Captain Stephen Tacchini for providing this tally of incidents occurring in the northern half of Noe Valley from April 16 to May 15, 2009.

Due to rotations in the Police Department—Capt. David Lazar took over the top job at Ingleside Station in April while Capt. Denis O'Leary moved on to head up the Narcotics Unit—we have no report from Ingleside this month. However, we hope to remedy that as soon as possible.

NOE VALLEY / MISSION CRIME LOG

Mission Police Capt. Stephen Tacchini

Boundaries: 21st, Guerrero, Cesar Chavez, and Grand View

April 15, 12:01 a.m., 4300 block of 26th: *False impersonation to receive money.* The victim reported that she was contacted by a credit agency and a department store after three checks were cashed without her permission. No suspects were apprehended.

April 17, 12:20 p.m., 00 block of Yukon: *Found property.* Officers responded to a call about an unoccupied stolen vehicle. While conducting an inventory search of the vehicle, officers located and seized a license plate not matching that of the vehicle.

April 17, 9 p.m., 4000 block of 25th: *Malicious mischief, graffiti.* The victim reported that his home had been vandalized by an unknown suspect. He showed officers that the wall adjacent to his garage was spray-painted with silver paint. No suspects were apprehended.

April 19, 6:10 p.m., 20th & Dolores: *Driving under the influence of alcohol.* Officers attempted to effect a traffic stop of a vehicle after the driver made an abrupt and unsafe lane change. The vehicle did not stop and the officers terminated their pursuit. Approximately four minutes later, two other officers effected a traffic stop on a vehicle that matched the description of the vehicle that failed to stop. Upon their approach the officers immediately detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage. The officers confirmed that the driver was from that of the initial incident in which the vehicle did not stop. After conducting a preliminary interview and a number of field sobriety tests, officers took the driver of the vehicle into custody for driving under the influence.

April 19, 7:15 p.m., 3800 block of 22nd: *Battery, domestic violence.* Officers responded to a domestic violence incident in which the victim was struck with an open hand on the shoulder. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident.

April 22, noon, 1200 block of Sanchez: *Burglary, residence, unlawful entry.* The victim reported that his garage had been burglarized by an unknown suspect. Personal property was taken. No suspects were apprehended.

April 22, 3:10 p.m., 24th & Chattanooga: *Possession stolen property.* Officers were flagged down by a Parking Control Officer (PCO) after he saw an individual putting something inside of a garbage can. The PCO told the officers that when he approached the individual he fled the scene. Officers recovered a great deal of what appeared to be stolen property in a plastic bag. The officers were able to return some of the property to its rightful owners. No suspects were apprehended.

April 23, noon, 4200 block of 24th: *False impersonation to receive money.* The victim reported that he was contacted by his bank after two checks were cashed without his permission. No suspects were apprehended.

April 24, 10 a.m., 1200 block of Guerrero: *False impersonation to receive money.* The victim reported that when he checked his online credit card account unauthorized charges had been made. No suspects were apprehended.

April 24, 5:15 p.m., 3900 block of 26th: *Malicious mischief, graffiti.* The victim reported that his home as well as his neighbor's home had been vandalized by an unknown suspect. He showed officers that their garage doors had been written on with a black object. No suspects were apprehended.

April 24, 6 p.m., 4100 block of 20th: *Theft, other property.* Officers responded to a theft in which the victim told officers her vehicle's parking permit sticker was stolen. No suspects were apprehended.

May 7, 2:35 p.m., Sanchez & 22nd: *Miscellaneous investigation.* Officers responded to a natural gas line rupture. The San Francisco Fire Department and PG&E were on scene and advised officers no evacuation was necessary. PG&E stated it would be fixing the line. The officers closed the intersection and controlled traffic.

May 11, noon, 1300 block of Guerrero: *Forgery, checks, felony.* Officers responded to a fraud incident in which the victim had her mail stolen. The victim was contacted by her bank after a false check was received. The bank refused to honor the check after verifying that it was false. No suspects were apprehended.

Tale of Two Police Districts

Noe Valley is split between two San Francisco police jurisdictions: Mission Police District and Ingleside Police District. With Cesar Chavez Street as the dividing line, Mission police monitor the northern half of the neighborhood, while Ingleside police watch over the southern half. Both districts invite citizens to attend police-community meetings, held monthly. Mission Police District holds meetings on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane.

To contact Mission Station, call 558-5400. You also may call Mission Station Capt. Stephen Tacchini at 558-5455 or e-mail him at Stephen.Tacchini@sfgov.org. Mission's tip line for anonymous reporting is 552-4558. To contact Ingleside, call 404-4000, or e-mail Capt. David Lazar at David.Lazar@sfgov.org. The Ingleside tip line is 587-8984.

To file a police report, go to any local station or file online at www.sfgov.org. To report a crime in progress, call 911. Cell phone users can dial S.F. Dispatch directly: 415-553-8090.

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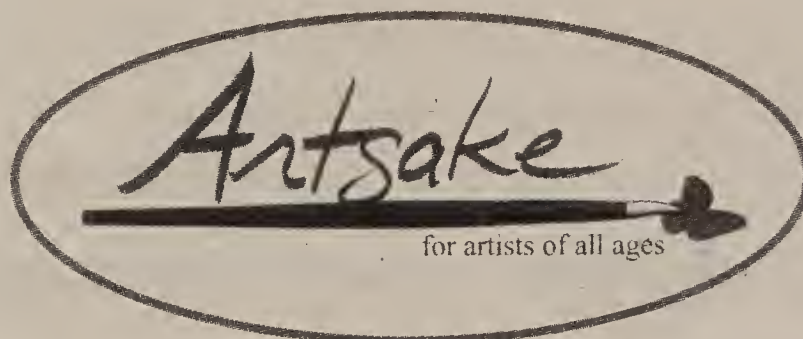
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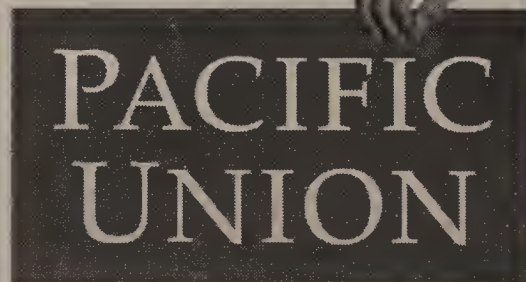
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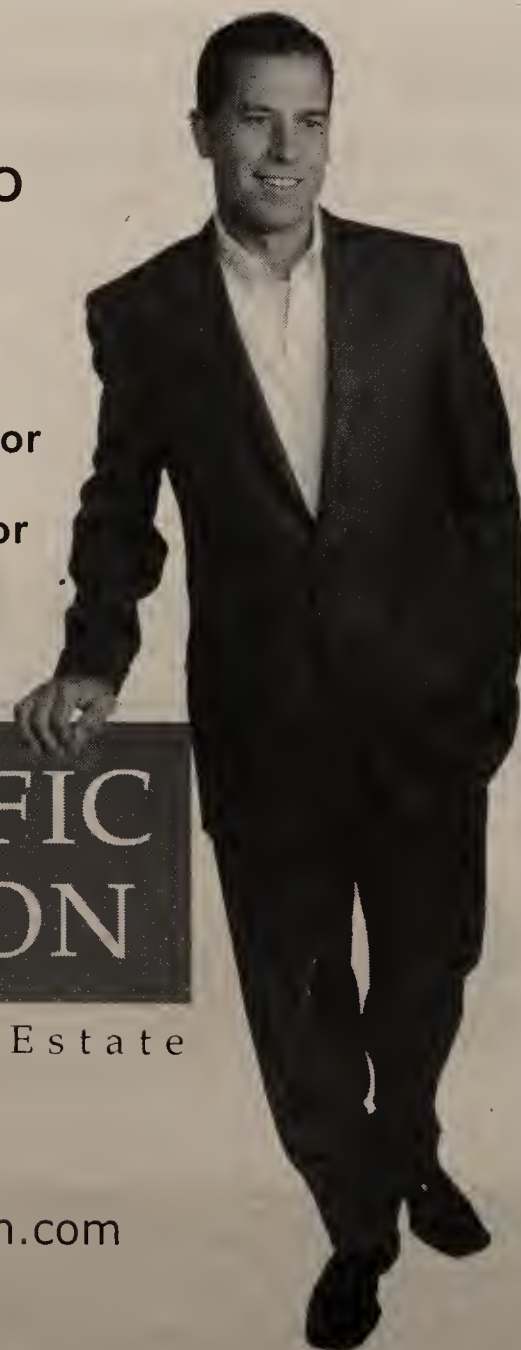


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PEACE BLOTTER

Pace Blotter is a sampling of neighborhood disputes recently mediated by Community Boards, a Mission District non-profit offering no- and low-cost mediation services. Now in its 33rd year, Community Boards gives those who are having a conflict a way to discuss their problems and craft their own solutions.

For information about the organization, log on to www.communityboards.org or call 415-920-3820. In the disputes described below, the names of the parties have been changed to protect their privacy.

When Two Lives Collide

Willie Hearst and Marion Davies were tenants in a small apartment building. Marion lived in the unit above Willie, and they both shared storage space in the garage. Marion complained to Willie (and to the landlord) about Willie's moving her personal property in the garage, but Willie never responded. In turn, Willie complained that Marion made too much noise. Things came to a head when the two tenants had a semi-physical confrontation outside the garage.

Resolution: Willie and Marion agreed to clearly designate with paint and labels their areas in the garage. Marion also agreed to purchase area rugs to minimize the noise.

Wall Gets Painted

Fred and Barney owned homes adjacent to one another. The west wall of Fred's garage sat directly on the property line. When Fred wanted to paint the garage, Barney refused to allow Fred access to his yard to paint the west wall. He threatened to call the police if Fred trespassed.

Resolution: During the mediation, Barney accused Fred of reporting him to the Planning Department when he had been doing some minor building construction several years earlier. Fred said that he hadn't done that. After airing their mutual grievances, they decided to call a truce and allow Fred to paint the west wall of his garage.

Battle Over Truck

Ulysses Grant and Robert Lee lived directly across the street from each other. Ulysses owned a small construction business, and in the evenings he parked his truck where he could see it from his front window. This meant that Robert, who owned and lived in his home for over 20 years, also saw the truck, which he described as "dirty and ugly." On the nights when Ulysses illegally parked his truck, usually across the sidewalk, Robert would call DPT to ticket the truck. Things between them finally exploded into an incident that involved the police.

Resolution: Ulysses wanted to make sure his truck was safe from theft or vandalism. Robert said he knew someone with a nearby vacant garage for rent. Ulysses agreed he would contact this person in order to secure his truck safely overnight.

The Party's Over

Cher said that Cyndi intentionally scratched her parked car several days after she had called the police about a loud party with

drunken behavior at Cyndi's. A police report was filed, and Cyndi was cited by the police, with a trial pending. Cyndi said she was innocent, but that her boyfriend might have done the vandalism. Cher said it would cost \$1,200 to repair the damage.

Resolution: Cyndi agreed to pay Cher \$900, while Cher agreed to drop the charges and any other legal action.

Praying for Quiet

Confucius ran a small religious retreat for members of his temple in his home. His neighbor, Ralph Kramden, complained about the music and chanting that occurred, particularly a new year's celebration that began at dawn and lasted five days.

Resolution: Confucius agreed to install soundproofing, mute the drum-playing, and begin the services later in the morning rather than at dawn. Ralph said he would monitor these changes and speak directly with Confucius about any issues.

Park Here, Please

Bob Cratchit, an elderly man on a fixed income, found himself incontinent due to his cancer treatment. Needing to drive to run even short errands, he would sometimes illegally park on the sidewalk in front of Ebenezer Scrooge's house in his rush to use his bathroom. Ebenezer belligerently complained and kept reporting him to the authorities. Bob was issued over \$400 in parking fines, and felt that Ebenezer was harassing and threatening him.

Resolution: After Bob explained his medical condition during their mediation, Ebenezer let him park in his driveway if needed, paid half of the parking fines, and offered to help with future errands.

Landlord, Tenant Meet Halfway

Jerry has lived in his apartment building for almost 10 years. Last year, the building was sold to Kramer. Jerry felt that Kramer was not a good landlord. He reduced regular maintenance, such as vacuuming the hallways and removing trash from the common areas. When Kramer was slow in replacing Jerry's broken refrigerator, Jerry withheld part of his rent. Kramer then served him with an eviction notice.

Resolution: During their mediation, Kramer explained that he had reduced services because his cash flow was lower due to his investment in the building. He rescinded the eviction notice and promised to improve the quality of Jerry's service. Jerry, in turn, paid Kramer the overdue balance of his rent.

Customer Often Right

Margaret Dumont took some of her suits to Marx's Dry Cleaners. She picked them up and hung them in her closet with the plastic bags still on them. Several weeks later, she discovered a suit jacket was damaged, with one button missing and another one crushed. She took it back to Marx's to complain. The owner denied having damaged them, and wondered why it took her so long to complain.

Resolution: During their mediation, Mr. Marx agreed to replace all the buttons on the coat and extended an offer to not charge Ms. Dumont for her next order.

This month's Peace Blotter was contributed by Jim Garrison of Community Boards.

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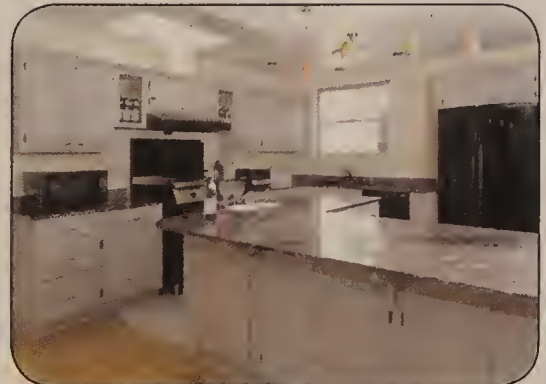
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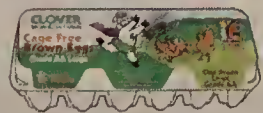
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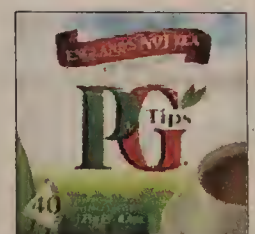
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NOW: June is "Adopt a SHELTER CAT" month, and the SFCA is offering free adoptions for cats age 6 and older. 11 am-6 pm; Wed., 1-6 pm. 250 Florida. 522-3500; www.sfspca.org.

NOW: Cooks Boulevard offers KNIFE SHARPENING. Drop off utensils by 6 pm. Sundays, pick up Tuesdays after 11 am. 1309 Castro. 647-2665; www.cooksboulevard.com.

June 1-6: ARTWORK by Alvarado students will be on display at the Noe Valley office of Hill & Co. 3899 24th. 824-1100.

June 1-17: Creativity Explored hosts an exhibit by eight gallery ARTISTS. 3245 16th. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org.

June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Infants and crawlers sing and play in English and Spanish at BILINGUAL BABY PLAY at Mission Library. 1:10 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Just Awesome! Games hosts MONOPOLY MONDAYS, 7 to 9 pm. 816 Diamond. Rsvp: 970-1484; www.justawesomemegames.com.

June 1-30: OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Monday-Saturday, 7 to 8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

June 1-30: Kids and their caregivers are invited for a free TOT TIME at the Upper Noe Rec Center. Mon., 10-11:30 am; Tues., 3-5 pm; and Wed., 3-5:30 pm. Oay & Sanchez. 695-5011 or 970-8061.

June 1-30: Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. *Alert: Senior Center lunch program may be forced to shut down at the end of the month.* Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

June 1-30: Kids in grades K-7 can get HOMEWORK help at the Mission Library Monday through Thursday, 4-6 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: The 24th Street FARMERS' MARKET opens on Tuesdays from 3 to 7 pm. Bell Market/Whole Foods parking lot, 3950 24th.

June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday-morning STORY HOUR, for newborns to age 4. 10 am. 3850 24th. 821-3477.

June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Chris Sequeira offers classes in Oigong and TAI CHI, 10-15 am to noon at the Walter Haas Playground, and Tuesdays evenings, 6 to 7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Register: 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

June 9 & 30: The Noe Valley Library sponsors TODDLER TALES, for 18 to 36 months, 10:15 am, and FAMILY STORY TIME, 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfppl.org.

June 2-30: City Guide Oan Sullivan leads a WALKING TOUR of the Castro every Tuesday and Sunday. Meet at 11 am at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro & Market) under the rainbow flag. 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

June 2-30: NAJIB JOE HAKIM exhibits new photographic work at the Market Street Gallery. Reception June 19, 6-8 pm, Tues.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm. 1554 Market. 290-1441.

June 2 & July 7: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama. 554-3050.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24: Mo8u Studio hosts PAL TIME-4-TOTS, a class to practice motor skills for mommies and tots 18 months to 3 years. 9-9:40 am. 1605 Church. 550-PALS.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24: Noe SENIORS meet Wednesdays for socializing and bingo. Noon-3:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 970-8061 or 695-5011.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24: Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday 8ABY RHYME TIME, for newborns to 18 months, begins at 3 pm; a family story time for ages 2 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 100 Collingwood. 355-5616.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24: The Castro FARMERS' MARKET offers fresh produce from 4 to 8 pm Wednesdays through October. Noe at Market. Merchants of Upper Market & Castro. www.CastroMerchants.com.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24: Just Awesome! Games hosts OPEN GAME NIGHT on Wednesdays, 6 to 10 pm. 816 Diamond. 970-1484; www.justawesomemegames.com.

June 3-27: City Art presents a group show interpreting the meaning of "QUEER" in honor of Pride Month. Reception June 5, 7-10 pm. Wed.-Sun., noon-9 pm. 970-9900; www.cityartgallery.org.

June 3-July 5: Nenad Kostic and Becky Robbins exhibit ARTWORK at ArtZone 461 Gallery. Wed.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia. 441-8680; www.artzone461.com.

June 4: UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS continues the discussion about private shuttles. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Oay and Sanchez.

June 4, 11, 18 & 25: A Thursday STROLLER WALK starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am and rolls through Noe and the Castro. 3872 24th. www.noestroll.com.

June 4, 11, 18 & 25: CANOLELIT YOGA at Kiki-Yo emphasizes deep relaxation. 7 pm, Thursdays. 6058 Chenery. 587-5454.

June 5, 12, 19 & 26: CLARE tells tales for children at Cover to Cover's Friday story hour, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

June 5, 12, 19 & 26: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts CHILDREN'S STORY TIME Friday mornings at 11 am. 653 Chenery. 586-3733.



Query by Becky Robbins will be among the paintings exhibited at ArtZone 461 Gallery June 3 to July 5

June 5, 12, 19 & 26: Yell "BINGO!" at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538

June 6: Beth Pewther and Leonard Breger offer an ART OPEN HOUSE tour of their Gaudi-style tiled house, on first Saturdays. 10 am-2 pm. 80 Bronte. www.artfools.com.

June 6: ARTSFEST street fair includes performances, art activities, and music. 11 am-5 pm. Fairfax between Third and Phelps.

June 6: Vegetarian COOKBOOK AUTHOR Deborah Madison discusses *What We Eat When We Eat Alone*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

June 6: Jeremy Adam Smith introduces his new book about the changing meaning of FATHERHOOD in today's society, *The Daddy Shift*. 7 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

June 6: MERLE KESSLER and Joshua Raoul Brody emcee an evening of song featuring 25 guest singers and the Experimental Love Orchestra. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalley-musicseries.com.

June 6-July 18: Limn Gallery hosts two SOLO ART SHOWS by Oebra Greene and Jil Weinstock. Reception June 6, 4-6 pm. 292 Townsend. 977-1300. www.limnartgallery.com.

June 7: SUNDAY STREETS highlights the Mission District, from Oolores Park to the Rolph Playground, via 19th, Valencia, 24th, and York streets. 10 am-2 pm. www.sundaystreetsf.com.

June 7: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts its season finale with a silent auction and classical cabaret performance by mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook and pianist Laura Oahl. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org.

June 7 & 21: SF City Guides leads free WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays. 1-3 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

June 7 & July 5: Board the historic SF Maritime National Park VESSELS at Hyde Street Pier free on the first Sunday of the month. 447-5000; <http://nps.gov/satr>.

June 7 & July 5: Rocket OOG RESCUE shows off dogs who need homes. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

June 8: Stephen Elliott holds the first MONTHLY RUMPUS, featuring comedy by Will Durst and readings by Peter Orner, Andrew Greer, Daniel Searls, and Barbara Jane Reyes. 7 pm. The Makeout Room, 3225 22nd. 647-2888. <http://therumpus.net>.

June 8: The Down to a SCIENCE BOOK CLUB hosts a discussion of *The Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan. 7-9 pm. 800s, Inc., 601 Van Ness. www.sciencecafesf.com.

June 9: Sur La Table's Renee Behnke introduces her book of 140 MEMORABLE RECIPES. 5:30-6:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

June 9: The sixth anniversary of RAOAR READING, hosted by Michelle Tea, features Sarah Schulman, James St. James, Raquel Guiterrez, and Shawn Stewart Ruff. 6-7:45 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.sfppl.org.

June 9: Sabrina Alonso's documentary film about California bears, *Grizzly Road*, screens at the Noe Valley Library. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfppl.org.

June 9 & 10: COOKS BOULEVARD hosts a two-session mini-series, "Stocks" on Tuesday, and "Sauces" on Wednesday. 6:15 pm. 1309 Castro. 647-2665; www.cooksboulevard.com.

June 10: Dr. Claudia Chaufan compares international HEALTHCARE systems to proposals for the U.S. at the Older Women's League. 6:30 pm. 474 Valencia. 989-4422; www.owlsf.org.

June 10-23: Mitsu Kimora exhibits ART-WORK at Ruby's Clay Studio. 10 am-7 pm daily. 552A Noe at 18th. 602-9409; www.rubysclaystudio.org.

June 11: Openhouse Outreach invites LGBT SENIORS to a second-Thursdays issues forum at 30th Street Senior Center. 10 am. 225 30th. 296-8995.

June 11: SF CHEFS Nate Appleman, Chris Cosentino, and Traci des Jardins discuss the current state of restaurants and cooking. 6 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

June 11: "WILD WOMEN POETRY" features readings by Linda Noel, Mary Korte, Sharon Ooubiogo, and Ruth Weiss. 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.sfppl.org.

June 11: Radical Women host a discussion of liberal/reform and radical FEMINISM. 6:15 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin. 864-1278; www.radicalwomen.org.

June 11: FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, sponsored by Video Wave and Fima Photography, also includes popcorn and beverages. 6:30 pm. Fima Photography, 1414 Castro. 550-7577.

June 11: Dr. Jerry Powell from the Essig museum of Entomology discusses MOTHS of the Bay Area. 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

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Napolitana style Pizza ■ Full Bar

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Sunday, June 21 Make Your Reservations Early

Don't forget our *EARLY BIRD SPECIALS*

5:00 – 6:30 every evening!

includes Free cup of soup or dinner salad and
a non-alcoholic beverage with any entrée

(Early Bird Special not available on holidays. Dine in only.
Not good with other offer or special events.)

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*Noe Valley Merchant Discount 10%**

(*not valid on alcoholic beverages)

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Late Night Menu until 1:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday



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Select Fridays 7-10pm

Free Admission and Free Refreshments

Come visit our artists at their open studios shows on select Fridays this summer. Over 100 artists will open their studios and join the featured artists showing in the main gallery. Find great deals on local artists paintings, jewelry, photography and more!

June 12th	744 Alabama St "Important Enigmatic New Works Full of Mystery and Wonder"
	Sharaine Bell, David King, Bill Samios
June 19th	2425 17th St "Death by Color"
	Cameron Chernoff, Catherine Reed
July 10th	744 Alabama St "Urban Birdseye: Quilts, Places and Other Things"
	Summer Lee, Mac McNamara, Karen Slovak, Colleen Stockmann
July 17th	2425 17th St "Body Language: figurative art speaks"
	Emily Citraro, Georgianne Fastaia, Romulo R Nisnisan Jr(ROM)
August 14th	744 Alabama St "Arts Eclectic"
	MacKenzie Davis, Mary Lou Hanley, Michelle Jader, Traci Zaretska
August 21st	2425 17th St "Line of Sight"
	Charles Keatts, Steven Scotten, Tim Svenonius
September 11th	744 Alabama St "Adventures in Photography"
	Keith Gidlund, Walter Hanley, Don Ross

Buy Art at the Source... visit our website to see the artists works:

www.artexplosionstudios.com

CALENDAR

June 11: Dolores Park MOVIE NIGHT shows Nina Paley's *Sita Sings the Blues*, at 8:30 pm in Dolores Park, 18th & Dolores. www.doloresparkmovie.org

June 12: LITERARY DEATH MATCH to launch *Opium8 The Infinity Issue*, features readings by Michelle Richmond, Katharine Noel, Eric Puchner, KM Soehnlein, and Jim Nelson. 6:30 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788.

June 12-14: The MISSION BOOK SALE (\$5 and under) and donation drive benefits the library's education programs. Fri., 1-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 10 am-4 pm. John D'Connell High School, 2355 Folsom. 626-7500; www.friendssfpl.org.

June 13: The SF Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum's June PLANT SALE features perennials. 10 am-1 pm. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

June 6: Cyclists can join BIKE BUDDIES to ride the best north-south route, starting at City Hall and finishing at the Marina Green. 2-3:30. 431-2453; bikebuddy@sfbike.org.

June 13: Local doulas and MIDWIVES gather on second Saturdays at Natural Resources. 2-4 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; www.naturalresources-sf.com.

June 13 & 14: The 55th annual NORTH BEACH Festival features juried art and crafts along Grant Street and in Washington Square Park. www.sfnorthbeach.org.

June 14: The HAIGHT ASHBURY Street Fair runs from 11 am to 5:30 pm. www.haightashburystreetfair.org.

June 14: Mila and Jayna Pavlin of Transponder Media International speak at the monthly PFLAG SUPPORT GRUP. 2-4:30 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 921-8850; www.pflagssf.org.

June 14: PATRICIA UNTERMAN debuts her new *San Francisco Food Lover's Pocket Guide*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. www.omnivorebooks.com; 282-4712.

June 15: Noe Valley mystery writer CARA BLACK is featured at the Odd Mondays series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; dinner Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (Rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

June 15: Atlas Café hosts a discussion, "The Science of a Good BEER." 7-9 pm. 3049 20th. 648-1047; www.sciencecafesf.com.

June 16: Dylan Donkin performs a MUSIC JAM for children age 5 and younger. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org

June 16: Meet the authors and taste samples from two books on FDDD, *Vegan Soul Kitchen* and *The Vegan Table*. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

June 16: Bird & Beckett hosts a BLDOMS-DAY reading from James Joyce's *Ulysses* at 7 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

June 16: DAN HOYLE performs a workshop of his new solo show, *Right?* 7:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 800-838-3006; www.themmarsh.org.

June 16 & 30: Enjoy a two-round Ladies POKER TDURNAMENT at Just Awesome Games. 816 Diamond. Rsvp to 970-1484; www.justawesomemegames.com.

June 16, 23 & 30; July 7, 14 & 21: NERT TRAINING classes run from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at St. John's Parish School in Glen Park. 925 Chenery. Register at 970-2024 or www.sfgov.org/site/sfnerf.

June 17: The VISUAL ARTS Committee of the SF Arts Commission meets on third Wednesdays. 3-5 pm. 25 Van Ness, Suite 70. www.startscommission.org.

June 17: The prizes for May's NDE VALLEY QUEST game will be awarded at a wrap-up party at the Noe Valley Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. You can keep playing until then. 5:30-7:30 pm. www.noevalleyquest.com.

June 17: The first meeting of the NDE VALLEY BODK GRUP is scheduled for 7 to 8:45 pm; reading preferences will be discussed. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey.

June 17: Eric Jaye, campaign manager for Mayor GAVIN NEWSOM, addresses the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond.

June 17: The MARSH RISING presents Lambeth Sterling's *Love and Sex in the Spin Cycle*. 7:30 pm. 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themmarsh.org.

June 18: The Glen Park Library offers a program for TEENS, "Who Do You Think You Are? 12 Ways to Find Out." 4-5 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

June 18: Cooks Boulevard offers a class in OUTDDDR GRILLING, geared to San Francisco weather. 6:15 pm. 1309 Castro. 647-2665; www.cooksboulevard.com.

June 18: ACT's CAREY PERLOFF and Franco Licauli discuss "Making Theatre in Italy and Making Theatre in the U.S." 6:30 pm. Italian Cultural Institute, 425 Washington. 788-7142.

June 18: MANIC D PRESS authors Beth Lisick, Matt Cook, Alvin Drloff, and others will be on hand for the publisher's 25th anniversary party. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

June 18: The EUREKA VALLEY Promotion Association meets on third Thursdays. 7:30 pm. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro. 437-9414; www.evpa.org.

June 18: A SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE Solstice Party features performances to fiddle tunes. 7:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 333-9372; www.scottishdancers.org.

June 19-July 10: The Mission Cultural Center hosts a FESTIVAL of visual poetry and performances. For a schedule: 821-1155; www.missionculturalcenter.org.

June 19-July 31: Bring your budding cooks (aged 2-4) to LITTLE CHEFS, a series of kids' cooking workshops. Fridays, noon-1 pm. 1710 Scott. 359-2454; www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org.

June 20: The Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly "BOWL-A-STRIKE for Seniors" fundraiser at the Serra Bowl runs from 11 am to 2 pm, and 2 to 5 pm. 3301 Junipero Serra, Daly City. 771-7957, ext. 106.

June 20: Chef Joyce Goldstein discusses her book *Tapas: Sensational Small Plates from Spain* at Omnivore Books on Food. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

June 21: Bob Price talks about "GAY OPPRESSION and Gay Liberation: 40 Years After Stonewall" at a Freedom Socialist Party meeting. 11:15 am. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin. 864-1278.

June 21: INDIE MART at Thee Parkside features nearly 100 creative vendors of clothing, art, and DIY craft. Noon-6 pm. 1600 17th. www.indie-mart.com.

June 21: Noe Valley Ministry offers a free JAZZ VESPER, featuring the Peter Yellin Quartet. 5-6 pm. Upper Hall, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www.noevalleyministry.org.

June 21: Sarah Kobrinsky leads YOGA FDR CURMUDGEDNS (Hatha Yoga without the chanting) at Cover to Cover. 1307 Castro. Reservations: 282-8080 or covertocover-bookellers@gmail.com.

June 23: FILMS for kids are shown at 10:15 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

June 23: COOKS BDULEVARD hosts a two-session series, "Stocks" on Tuesday, and "Sauces" on Wednesday. 6:15 pm. 1309 Castro. 647-2665; www.cooksboulevard.com.

June 25: Take Your DOG TO-WDRK Day!

June 25: Radical Women celebrates Queer Pride Month and the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion with a BODK RECEPTION for *Smash the Church, Smash the State: The Early Years of Gay Liberation*. 6:15 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin. 864-1278; www.radicalwomen.org.

June 25: SF Chronicle cartoonist PAUL MADDNNA discusses his work from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Main Library. 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org.

June 26: ALICE WATERS talks up her book *The Edible Schoolyard* to benefit the Chez Panisse Foundation, at Omnivore Books. Tickets a must. 6-8 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

June 26: Bring your poetry, music, and creative writing to QUEER OPEN MIC. Signup 7 pm. Show 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

June 26-28: SF PRIDE WEEKEND culminates with the SF Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28, starting 10:30 am at Market & Beale. www.sfpride.org.

June 27: The SF History Association hosts a free walking CEMETERY TOUR, finding the graves of local notables. 11 am. Holy Cross Cemetery, 1500 Mission Road, Colma. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

June 27: Bring usable items, food, and skills to the Really REALLY FREE MARKET the last Saturday of the month, around noon, in Dolores Park, near 19th and Dolores.

June 21: The Banana Slug STRING BAND performs a concert including costumes, puppetry, and audience participation, for all ages. 1:30-2:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org

June 27: Karen Solomon brings her BOOK *Jam It, Pickle It, Cure It*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

June 27 & 28: The SF ZOO celebrates its 80th anniversary with 1920s entertainment, baby animal exhibits, and musical performances by Fisher-Price's Little People at 11 am, 1:30 and 3 pm. Sloat near the Great Highway. 753-7080; www.sfzoo.org

June 28: Rupa and the April Fishes and Les Nubians perform at STERN GROVE. 2 pm. www.sferngrove.org

June 29: Shrawan Nepali discusses NEPAL at the Ddd Mondays series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; dinner Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (Rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

June 30: SF Center for the Book holds a reception for the Spoken City BOOK PROJECT. 7-9 pm. 300 De Haro. 565-0545; www.sicb.org.

June 30: Guest speakers discuss BERNAL HEIGHTS at the monthly meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

July 1: CounterPulse hosts WORDS FIRST, a monthly solo performance series. 7:30 pm. 1310 Mission. 626-2060. www.counterpulse.org.

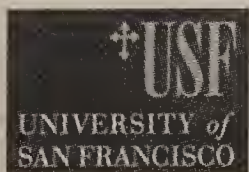
July 1-Aug. 1: City Art Cooperative Gallery hosts a GRUP SHDW featuring 24 member artists. Reception July 3, 7-10 pm. 828 Valencia. 970-9900; www.cityartgallery.org

July 4 & 5: The SF MIME TROUPE kicks off its 2009 season with a performance of *Too Big to Fail*, at 2 pm in Dolores Park.

JULY ON THE BEACH

The next *Voice* will be the **July/August 2009** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of July. E-mail items by **June 15** to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., SF, CA 94114. Note: Noe Valley events may receive priority. Thank you.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE



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EMAIL: usftherapist@gmail.com
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INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: MONEY AND SCHOOL



KGO Radio's Lynn Jimenez, money reporter and author of *¿Se Habla Dinero?*, *The Everyday Guide to Financial Success* (a bilingual family financial guide) will help you help your child get the education he/she deserves.

Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 10:00-11:30am
(light refreshments served, book signing)

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OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

EVENTS

JUNE 2009

SAT
JUNE
6

DEBORAH MADISON • 3:00-4:00 P.M. • FREE
What We Eat When We Eat Alone. Ms. Madison set out to learn what people chew on when there isn't anyone else around, and the responses are surprising. Come find out what she learned.

TUES
JUNE
9

RENEE BEHNKE • 5:30-6:30 P.M. • FREE
Memorable Recipes. Ms. Behnke is the president emeritus of the culinary mecca Sur La Table, and she brings a bounty of tastes from around the world to her new work.

THRS
JUNE
11

NATE APPLEMAN, CHRIS COSENTINO, AND TRACI DES JARDINS • 6:00 P.M. • FREE
Three (maybe even more!) venerable San Francisco chefs will form a panel to discuss the current state of restaurants and cooking - please join us for this fascinating forum.

SUN
JUNE
14

PATRICIA UNTERMAN • 3:00-4:00 P.M. • FREE
San Francisco Food Lover's Pocket Guide. Hot-off-the-presses, this is the latest guide to everything edible that San Francisco has to offer! Unterman, owner of Hayes Street Grill, is a joy to hear. Please join us.

SAT
JUNE
20

JOYCE GOLDSTEIN • 3:00-4:00 P.M. • FREE
Tapas! Ms. Goldstein has once again used her encyclopedic knowledge of Mediterranean food to delight our senses. She's sure to bring some delicious tapas to taste, so come, eat.

SAT
JUNE
27

KAREN SOLOMON • 3:00-4:00 P.M. • FREE
Jam It, Pickle It, Cure It. This fantastic book's title says it all: not just about preserving fruits and vegetables, it's also about beef, fish, potato chips, and more.

OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

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San Francisco is teeming with colorful characters.

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Discover an aquarium, planetarium, four-story rainforest and natural history museum—all under one living roof.

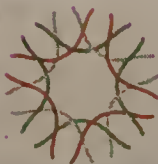
June 2009 Neighborhood Free Days

NEIGHBORHOOD	ZIP CODE	FREE DAYS
Chinatown, Tenderloin, Downtown, SOMA, Potrero, Treasure Island, Mission Bay	94103, 94107, 94130, 94111, 94105, 94108, 94104, 94102, 94158	June 5, 6, 7
Castro, Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, Miraloma Park, Cole Valley, Haight	94117, 94114, 94131	June 12, 13, 14

Check the complete schedule on www.calacademy.org or call 415.379.8000 to confirm your Neighborhood Free Days.

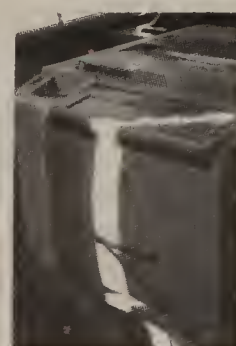
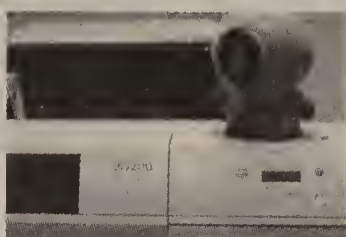
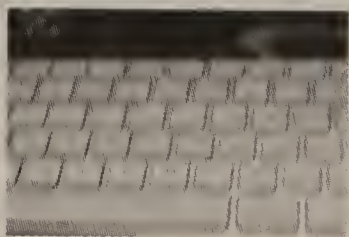
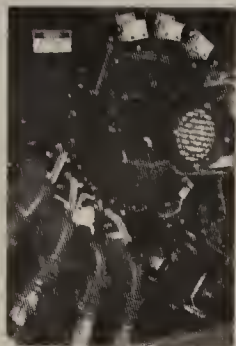
Each visiting adult must prove residency by showing a driver's license or a utility bill. On each scheduled date, only residents from the specified zip codes will be admitted free of charge.

As part of Bank of America's longtime support of museums and local educational programs, the Academy offers Neighborhood Free Days to San Francisco residents.

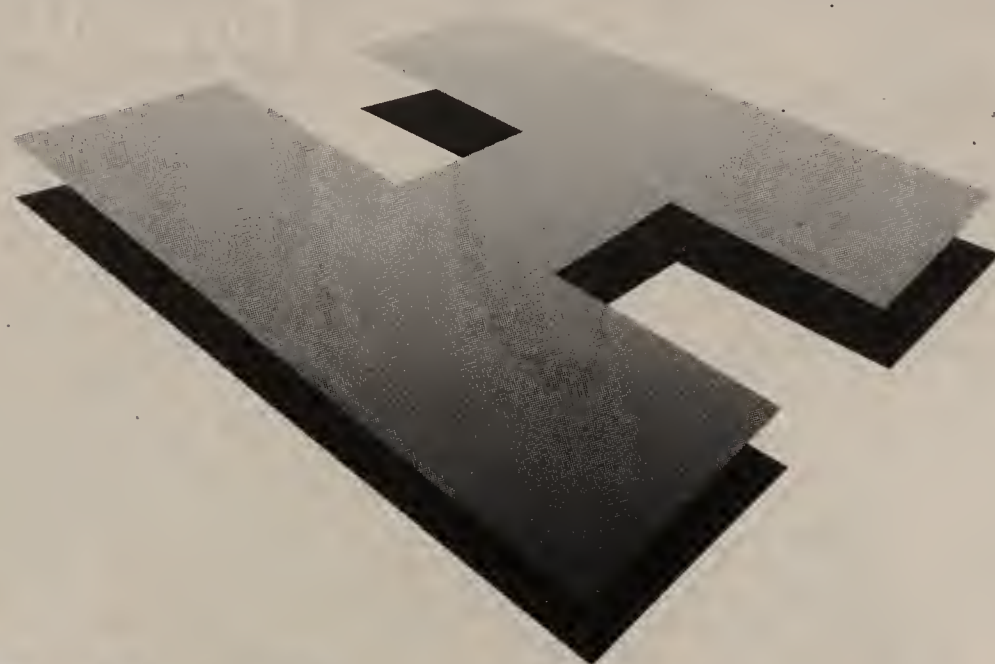


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it is going to have an impact. It could
be considered Russian Roulette.”

— SF DEPUTY CHIEF GARY MASSETANI



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Station #11 on 26th Street in Noe Valley.
Protect safety in your community by saving
your neighborhood firehouse.

A 2005 study by the San Francisco Fire Department concluded that response times were slower in 22 of 24 areas of the city where fire stations were “browned out.” Longer response times put our neighborhood safety at risk — the faster the response time to emergencies, the greater the chance of saving lives and preventing damage.


But the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is considering a new

plan that would cut funding and “brown out” more of our neighborhood firehouses, our first line of defense in the event of fires, medical emergencies or any major disaster.

Visit www.SaveOurFirehouses.com for instructions on how to call or email your local Supervisor to urge them to protect your neighborhood safety and Save Our Neighborhood Firehouses!



SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIREHOUSES

1. Join online at www.SaveOurFirehouses.com
2. Join the Save Our Firehouses page on  Facebook
3. Fill out and send this card to:
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STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

SHORT TAKES

FUF Goes Back to Its Roots

Friends of the Urban Forest has already held a June meeting for the participants in a July tree-planting in the neighborhood. But if you hurry, you can still join the leaf brigade and plant a tree on your sidewalk this summer.

FUF's bargain trees—at \$195 each—will be planted on Saturday, July 11, over an area loosely bounded by 24th Street, Dolores, 30th, and Diamond Heights Boulevard. Applications to join the tree-raising are due Tuesday, June 11.

FUF takes care of the bureaucracy by obtaining permits from the city, identifying underground utilities, ordering trees and supplies, and providing tools. Residents, aided by FUF staff and volunteers, pick the species, then pitch in to plant the tree. Once the trees are staked and staked, everyone washes hands and digs into a community potluck. (The cost also includes a follow-up visit to check on the tree's health after 12 to 18 months.)

The planting area, available for viewing online, encompasses parts of windy Diamond Heights, where species like the fruitless olive tree or the New Zealand Christmas tree thrive. Tree choices are based on sidewalk space, soil type, amount of sunlight, and the tree's growth rate.

FUF planting manager Doug Wildman says Noe Valley is particularly hospitable to Victorian box trees, magnolias, and a variety of ornamental fruit trees. Noe was one of the first sites his 28-year-old nonprofit staked its roots, Wildman says. "We've planted Noe Valley oodles of times. A lot of people have trees."

Participants are asked to send two forms to FUF: a letter of agreement and a tree-planting application from DPW, both of which are available on the FUF's website at www.fuf.net. If you want the forms faxed or mailed to you, call 415-561-6890, ext. 103.

—Heather World

Teens Talk About Gender

Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up, a new documentary film by Noe Valley's Oscar-winning director Debra Chasnoff, will screen this month as part of the 33rd annual San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival.

The 66-minute documentary features California high school youths speaking candidly about stress caused by rigid gender roles and homophobic attitudes. The subjects range from girls confronting

pressures surrounding body image to boys who've become sexually active just to prove they aren't gay.

"It's about the ways that young people are pressured to be a certain way and about the courage it takes to break out of the box and be yourself," says Chasnoff, 51, an Elizabeth Street resident who, with her partner, has two children, ages 15 and 20.

Straightlaced includes interviews with several Noe Valley teens who were students at International High School during the film's shooting. The film will show on Friday, June 26, 6 p.m., at the Roxie Film Center, 3117 16th Street.

Chasnoff picked up a 1991 Academy Award for Best Short Documentary for *Deadly Deception*, a film about General Electric's shady involvement in the nuclear weapons business.

The LGBT Festival, showing 219 feature-length and short films, will run June 18 through 28 at three San Francisco venues—the Roxie, the Castro (429 Castro Street), and the Victoria Theatre (2961 16th Street)—and in Berkeley at Rialto Cinemas, Elmwood (2966 College Avenue).

Prices range from \$7 to \$10 for individual tickets to \$200 for all screenings at the Castro Theatre, other than opening night and closing night. The opening-night gala will be highlighted by *An Englishman in New York*, a sequel to the film *The Naked Civil Servant*, starring John Hurt. For more film and ticket information, visit www.frameline.org.

—Corrie M. Anders

Questions Answered

You can reward your pursuit of Noe Valley knowledge at a prize drawing for players of Quest, the neighborhood trivia hunt, on Wednesday, June 17, at the Upper Noe Recreation Center.

At the party, you'll be urged to eat, drink, meet fellow Questers, and see photos of the spots you might have missed while searching for answers in the Noe Valley quiz. The game's organizers, a motley group of neighborhood merchants, will draw the names of winners and award prizes valued at \$50 to \$350, ranging from an acupuncture session to a watch from Wink to a recipe organizer and book from Omnivore Books on Food.

Co-organizer Gwen Sanderson, of Video Wave on Castro Street, is hoping for a big turnout at the drawing, which is open to all, whether or not you played the game. "Come and show us if you liked it," she says.

Sanderson says more neighborhood stores have joined the fun since the game started in May. Consequently, players who did not turn in their slips by the May 31 deadline can be eligible for a second-chance drawing of smaller prizes just by bringing their game sheets to the rec center party. The sheets are available at par-



Noe Valley's Debra Chasnoff will show her latest documentary, *Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up*, June 26 during the San Francisco LGBT Film Festival.

ticipating stores, including Cooks Boulevard, Cover to Cover, Fima Photography, Forbeadin', Just Awesome!, Ladybug Ladybug, Neon Monster, Omnivore Books, Peekabootique, Purple Iris Healing Center, Small Frys, So Tell Me More, Video Wave, and Wink.

The Quest fest runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (drawing at 6:15 p.m.) at the rec center, located on Day Street between Church and Sanchez streets. For the latest news, visit www.noevalleyquest.com.

—Heather World

Jigging in the Solstice

Celebrate the summer solstice by watching lively jigs and mesmerizing strathspeys danced by the San Francisco Scottish Country Dancers Thursday, June 18, at the Noe Valley Ministry.

Think hornpipe, the dance, not bagpipes. (Bagpipes accompany Scottish highland dancing, which is usually solo.) Scottish country dancing is more like traditional ballroom dancing, where partners follow choreographed formations, but with trickier and more energetic footwork, says Susie Langdon Kass, teacher and member of the San Francisco chapter of the worldwide Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

The country dancing tradition boasts hundreds of specific dances, and the San Francisco chapter will step, slide, and jump through 12 of these, including the Sailor, the Starry-Eyed Lassie, and Miss Gibson's Strathspey. Dance teacher and bandleader Patti Cobb will play piano, joined by two fiddlers, one flutist, and a percussionist. Festivities begin at 7:45 p.m. at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street.

The group meets every Thursday,

throwing the doors open to the public for free viewing on the two solstices. If you like what you see, lace up your gillies (or any comfortable shoe) and join the group for a free introductory dance lesson on Sept. 10, 8 p.m., also at the Ministry. Visit www.sf-scottishdancers.org or call 415-333-9372 for more information.

—Heather World

Literature Give and Take

The San Francisco Public Library hopes you will bring in your old books and pick up new bargains at the inaugural Mission Book Sale and Donation Drive the weekend of June 12 to 14.

You won't find a book costing more than \$5, but you will find 75,000 choices in 50 categories, not to mention DVDs, CDs, books on tape, cassette tapes, vinyl, VHS, and other forms of media.

Hosted by the 48-year-old Friends of the SFPL, the Mission event is the latest addition to a string of similar sales across the city. The nonprofit will use the proceeds to fund literacy programs for children, teens, and adults.

Throughout the year, Friends of the SFPL staff and volunteers collect used and new books from estate sales, businesses, publishers, and individuals. The Mission sale, at John O'Connell High School, 2355 Folsom Street at 20th Street, runs June 12 from 1 to 7 p.m., June 13 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and June 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit www.friendssfpl.org or call 415-626-7500 for more information.

—Heather World

Budget Cuts Make New Bedfellows

Budget cuts have spurred a new partnership between the nonprofit agency tracking park complaints and the city. Now the grievances you air at a website called ParkScan will funnel directly to the city's customer service center.

Started five years ago, ParkScan is a piece of software run by the Neighborhood Parks Council. It allows park-goers to report park problems, such as broken swings, dry drinking fountains, dirty sand, burned-out lights, or a pesky pack of pocket gophers. The system then tracks the problems until they are solved. Last year, ParkScan logged about 1,600 "observations," with graffiti and litter being the most frequently reported.

Now those reports will be looped in with park complaints to 311, the city's customer service line, and proceed directly to the agencies capable of making repairs. Comments can be logged online at www.parkscan.org or at www.sfgov.org/311, or by phone to 311 in multiple

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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Noe Valley Skies

Photo by Jack Tipple



Fog Foto. Time to add a layer. We're going home to Noe Valley and, depending on how far up 22nd Street we have to climb, we may be greeted by our summer air conditioning. Oh well. It'll be time for shorts and sunscreen in August.

Photo by Jack Tipple

SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

languages. The 311 center employs 103 staffers, who handled nearly four million calls in 2008 (not all concerning parks). The system's director reported a 90 percent closure rate on park issues reported by the public.

"311 staff follow up on every call or complaint to make sure that different agencies respond, greatly expanding the capacity of a small nonprofit to get action from the city," says Isabel Wade, the Parks Council's executive director.

Recreation and Park Department General Manager Jared Blumenfeld says the up-to-date reports will allow his department to better respond to problems.

—Heather World

LGBT Seniors Get Together on 30th Street

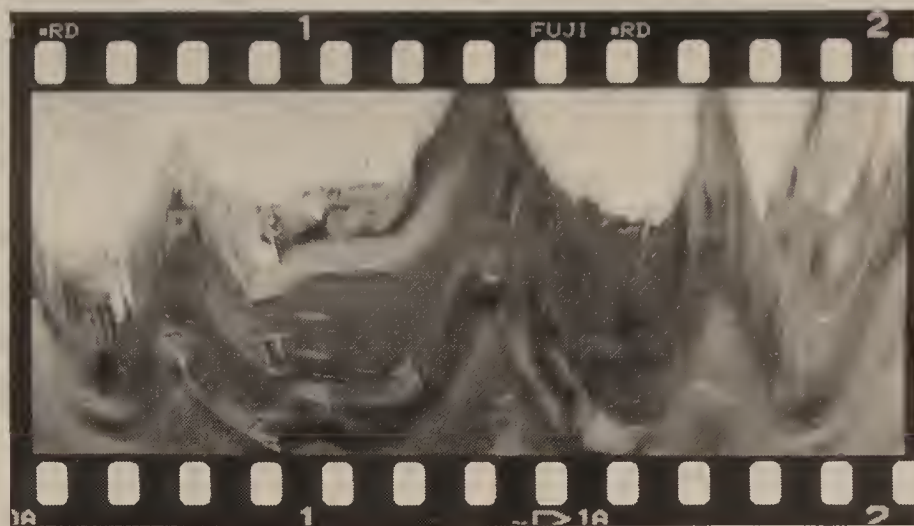
A senior advocacy group called Openhouse is sponsoring a free monthly discussion group for gay, lesbian, and transgender seniors at the bustling 30th Street Senior Center.

The LGBT Issues Forum meets on the second Thursday of each month, and hopes to provide a more active social network for older members of the gay community. The meetings also introduce participants to the senior center, which offers meals, classes, gardening, and social events to around 5,000 seniors a year.

The issues forum is open to anyone 60 years or older who wishes to connect with older LGBTs. The next meeting happens Thursday, June 11, 10 to 11 a.m., at the 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th Street at Dolores, third floor. At the top of the agenda will be Pride activities in June.

Michelle Alcedo, coordinator at Openhouse, says upcoming forums may include a speaker from the Human Rights Commission and a presentation on life in San Francisco as an LGBT senior.

Openhouse also hosts a discussion group and film series in Bernal Heights every third Thursday of the month. The June 18 meeting, held at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Avenue from 1 to 2:30 p.m., will feature the film *Coming Out Under Fire*, a documentary about gay men and women who served during World War II. In addition, Openhouse, in conjunction



"Red's House," part of a June exhibit at the Market Street Gallery of dream photography by Najib Joe Hakim, was shot using a jiggling Russian panoramic camera. Note that the (red) Hall Realty building and St. Paul's Church are barely visible in the photo. "It illustrates, for me, the 'evolution by earthquake' of the city's housing economy," says Hakim.

with Senior Action Network, holds "LGBT Senior University," a free leadership training seminar for LGBTs aged 50 and older and for adults with disabilities.

For more information, call Alcedo at 415-296-8995, ext. 5, or visit www.openhouse-sf.org.

—Heather World

Digital Dreams Recovered

Najib Joe Hakim, a Noe Valley-based freelance photographer and photojournalist, in June will exhibit "20/20," a collection of works that represent a dramatic shift from his usual documentary-style pictures.

In the series of 19 blurred, often abstract images on display at the Market Street Gallery, Hakim hopes to portray dreams he's had over the last few years.

"They express some of the emotion and feelings of the dreams: being small, the darkness, the sense that something happened but you don't remember the details," says Hakim.

Hakim used a mixture of out-of-focus, pinholes, and other playful techniques—all in-camera and all with subjects in plain view—to suggest different moods and experiences. Seven of the fine art photographs include streets scenes and buildings in Noe Valley, where the Valley Street resident has lived since 1987.

Hakim, 54, has been published in *Life*, *Parenting*, and *Metropolitan Home*, as well as in other national and regional magazines and newspapers, and is a contributor to the *Voice*. His work has been exhibited at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the San Francisco Art Commission, Rayko Photo Center, and the Krevsky Fine Art Gallery.

The current show runs through June 30

at the Market Street Gallery, located at 1554 Market Street between Van Ness and Franklin streets. The gallery will host a 6 to 8 p.m. reception Friday, June 19, and also will be open to the public Tuesday through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays by appointment.

—Corrie M. Anders

A Book Feast

Omnivore Books, the cookbook store at Church and Cesar Chavez streets, features some tasty encounters with culinary stars this month, from a benefit with food revolutionary Alice Waters from the East Bay to instruction on the radical notion of home canning by San Francisco mom Karen Solomon.

Tickets are free for all events except Waters, but spots must be reserved, as the shop accommodates only 40 people. Already a talk by Michael Pollen is sold out, but like the other authors, he'll leave signed books for those who couldn't make it.

The month's treats start June 2 at 3 p.m., when Tom Standage signs copies of his book *An Edible History of Humanity*, a pithy account of how a series of changes—caused, enabled, or influenced by food—has helped to shape and transform societies around the world.

On June 6 from 3 to 4 p.m., Deborah Madison will talk about her book *What We Eat When We Eat Alone*. The author of many vegetarian cookbooks and creator of Greens Restaurant in San Fran-

cisco, Madison discovered what people chew on when no one else is around, and her findings are surprising, according to Celia Sack, owner of the store.

Renee Behnke, president emeritus of the culinary mecca Sur La Table, will discuss creating her book *Memorable Recipes*, a collection of 140 recipes based on her world travels, on June 9 at 5:30 p.m.

On June 11 at 6 p.m., three venerable San Francisco chefs will form a panel to discuss the current state of restaurants and cooking. Nate Appleman of A16, Chris Cosentino of Church Street's Incanto, and Traci des Jardins of Jardiniere, Mijita, and Acme Chophouse will lead the forum. Patricia Unterman, author of the just-released *San Francisco Food Lover's Pocket Guide* and owner of the Hayes Street Grill, will talk about local cuisine from sophisticated dining in Marin to Mission taquerias June 14 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Tapas will be the main course on June 20 from 3 to 4 p.m., when Joyce Goldstein brings edibles and knowledge to the store. Goldstein's book, *Tapas: Sensational Small Plates from Spain*, includes 60 authentic but easy recipes as well as accounts of her travels and dining.

Alice Waters appears June 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. for a benefit talk. In 1996, the influential advocate of locally grown food joined a small group of teachers and volunteers to turn long-abandoned soil at an urban middle school in Berkeley into an Edible Schoolyard that feeds bellies and minds. Since then, the schoolyard has grown into a universal idea of Edible Education that integrates academics with growing, cooking, and sharing food. Tickets cost \$50, and proceeds will benefit the Chez Panisse Foundation, which supports the Schoolyard.

On June 27 Karen Solomon talks about her book *Jam It, Pickle It, Cure It* from 3 to 4 p.m. More than just recipes for the likes of canned carrots, the book covers beef, fish, potato chips, and more.

For more information, call the store at 415-282-4712 or visit www.omnivore-books.com.

—Heather World



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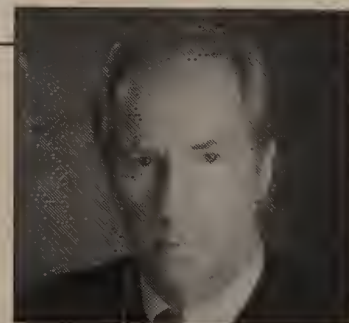
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STORE TREK

By Lorraine Sanders

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we visit a new optometry practice on 24th Street and a book-lending service operating out of a long-established children's clothing store.

EYES ON 24TH OPTOMETRY

4110 24th Street at Castro Street
415-282-1366
www.eyesontwentyfourth.com

There's a new place to see and be seen on 24th Street. Opened earlier this year by doctors of optometry Victor Bautista and Katherine Stout, Eyes on 24th Optometry offers family vision-care services in a newly revamped space that has housed optometry practices in the neighborhood for some 30 years.

"We're always taking on new patients. We're very kid-friendly and we're very dog-friendly," says Stout.

Previously home to Eye See You Optometry, the new practice is the first private venture for Stout and Bautista, Sausalito residents who met at the U.C. Berkeley School of Optometry, where they graduated in 2005 and 2007, respectively. Karen Janks, the practice's optician clinical assistant, works alongside Stout and Bautista.

After purchasing the business from a friend and former colleague in January, the two partners refinished the original hardwood floors, added a new exterior awning, and painted the interior a fresh muted-green hue. They also decorated with French-country details—see the antique water pitcher in the bathroom.

New custom shelving displays an assortment of sleek designer frames (\$150 to \$600, base price) from such names as Kate Spade and John Varvatos. A small sitting area in front gives way to the main room's retail space, while the exam room is secluded in back.

Along with offering traditional eye exams and contact lens fittings, as well as



Victor Bautista and Katherine Stout offer a selection of designer frames along with a full range of optometry services at Eyes on 24th Optometry, located on 24th Street near Castro. Photo by Pamela Gerard

specialist referrals, Stout and Bautista provide vision care to patients before and after procedures such as LASIK and cataract surgery. They also promise to schedule their clients so there is adequate time to attend to all their needs.

"We really like to take our time with each patient. We set aside 45 minutes to an hour per patient to get to the bottom of the problems they are having," says Bautista.

Another focus is pediatric vision care. Both doctors stress finding vision problems in children as early as possible.

"We recommend that children come in at six months of age, two years of age, and every two years thereafter," Stout says.

The practice is also committed to embracing technology. Stout is currently handling the tedious task of converting by hand every patient record inherited from their predecessors from paper files to an electronic format. Also in the works is a system that enables patients to order contact lenses and prescriptions online. Appointments may be scheduled via the website, www.eyesontwentyfourth.com.

Among the insurance plans the practice accepts are Blue Cross, Aetna, United Healthcare, VSP, Medicare, and Eyemed.

Eyes on 24th Optometry is open Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Wednesday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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It may be true that one can't reliably judge a book by its cover, but try telling that to a cranky 4-year-old. An even greater parental challenge? Hunting down new, exciting children's books on a wide range of age-appropriate topics to bolster the trusty favorites everyone in the family can recite from memory. A children's book-lending service new to Noe Valley from Bay Area-based company BookTree seeks to address both issues.

"For my kids, they'll get excited about a [book] cover, but this is helping them find books that they wouldn't pick out themselves," says Azia Yenne, manager and buyer at children's boutique Small Frys, which serves as Noe Valley's BookTree lending location.

BookTree's lending service (\$23.95 per month, with a 20 percent discount for additional subscribers within the same household) offers a black tote containing 10 age-appropriate books at designated pickup locations such as schools, children's stores, or large office buildings throughout the city. Outside of Noe Valley, the service is currently available at retail locations in West Portal and the Inner Sunset, as well as at 40 Bay Area schools and companies such as CNET, Gap Inc., and Gymboree. Parents pick up BookTree's selections at the beginning of the month, bring the books home to read, and exchange them for a new tote bag of books the next month.

"To me, it's like a Netflix for books, and you don't have to leave the neighborhood," Yenne says.

BookTree tailors its selections to the

subscriber child's age by offering six tracks, for infant through age 7.

"It exposes the child to so many different genres and different types of topics.... There's going to be fiction, nonfiction, books that emphasize mathematical concepts. It's a very broad range," says Chad Balch, a co-owner of the business his wife Kathy left her high-tech career to launch in 2005.

The service puts an emphasis on lesser-known children's books rather than classics, which families are likely to already own, Balch says. No two books in a monthly set are similar, nor do the books contain violence, harsh language, or characters with commercial-product ties.

"You could potentially be on this service for six or seven years and never see a book twice. You wouldn't even find all of these books at the local libraries," says Balch.

Speaking of libraries, why pay for a book-lending service when there's a public institution that will lend you as many as you want for free?

Says Balch, "Often people don't have time [to select books]. This service is about making that easier and more convenient.... Our subscribers still go to libraries and bookstores. They can have more fun at the library and not feel like they're on a mission."

New subscribers are invited to try out the service with a free one-month trial. For more information or to enroll, stop by Small Frys or visit BookTree online at www.booktree.us.



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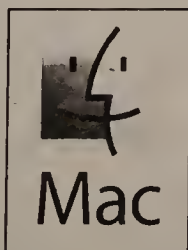
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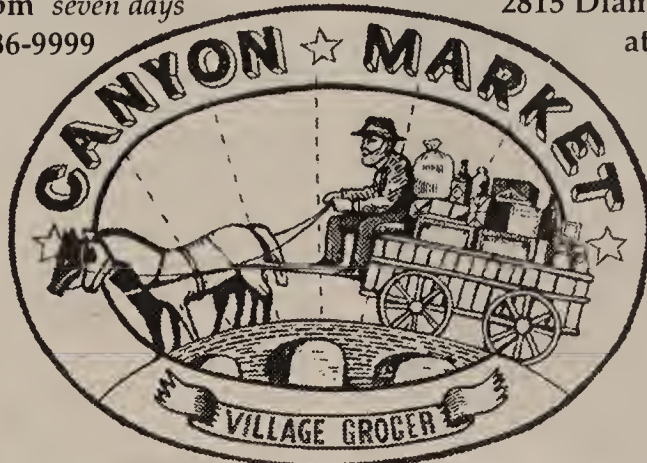
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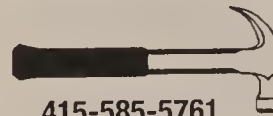
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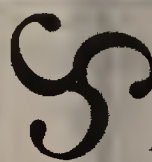
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Noe Valley Skies

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



Night Vision. Look up. Our moon and the planet Venus reflect light from somewhere out there – beyond 24th Street.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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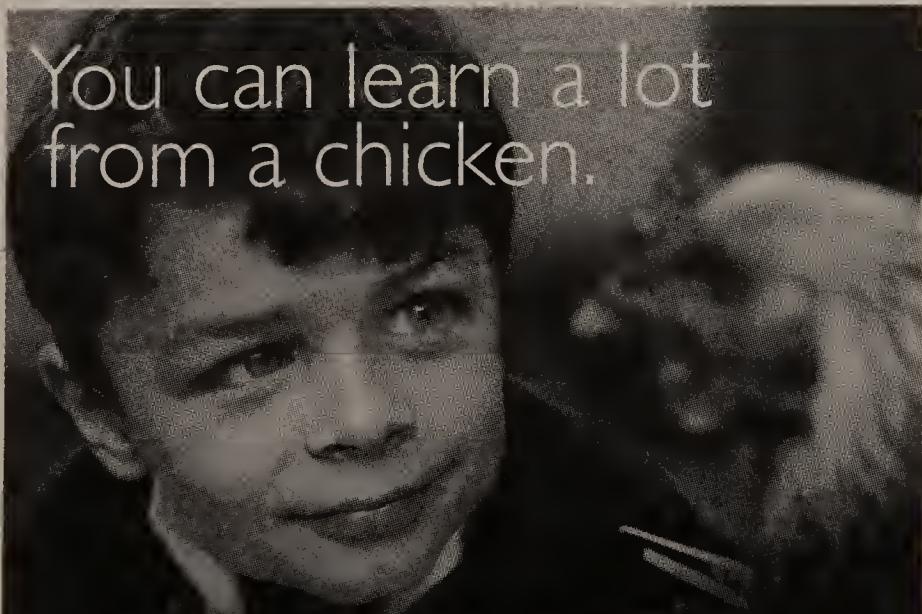


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Todd and the Boys. Todd Anthony and his sons Nick (left) and Luca, spent this Saturday morning at Good News on 24th Street. Happy Father's Day to all, and may you always find something great to read.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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SCHOOL REPORT

School parents spread the news from James Lick Middle School on Noe Street and Alvarado Elementary on Douglass.

JAMES LICK

On the Stage, in the Studio, and on the Dance Floor

James Lick Middle School's annual Ice Cream Social in May welcomed over 150 new students enrolled for sixth grade next fall. While they listened dutifully to what to study over the summer (multiplication tables) and what to wear next year (white-collared shirt, black pants, no red or green), the new students also got testimonials from current students about some of their favorite classes.

Hands-down favorites on everybody's list? Vocal music, rock band, art, dance, and acting. As for what the kids liked to do after school, which counts big in a middle-schooler's life even if it doesn't go on the transcript, top vote-getters were performing in the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, strutting salsa stuff at Carnival, playing with the rock band Los Lobos on stage, and opening National Dance Week in the longest conga line ever seen in San Francisco.

Lick is becoming known as an unofficial "arts magnet" school, as the variety of classes in the arts has been growing from one studio and a popular art teacher just a few years ago to a lineup today that would make alumnus Carlos Santana proud. At Lick, all sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students take part in the arts, cycling through several classes each school year. There are currently 16 options, including dance (social ballroom, jazz, hip-hop, and a wide variety of Latin American folk), visual arts, crafts, music (chorus, Blue Bear School of Music rock band), drama, and journalism.

During this past year, once the bell rang at 3:30, over 300 students headed to the auditorium to paint sets and

props, sing, dance, and act their hearts out for a production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. (The show wowed audiences in February.) Another 90 students trooped into dance practice to be in last month's Carnival, something Lick has gladly participated in for over 10 years. Visual arts projects, aided by guest artists Aiko Cuneo and Lilli Lanier, were also a big hit this spring and brought in more than \$3,000 at the school's Silent Auction, the most successful such event ever.

All the singing and dancing and crafting has led to another happy result. This year, 20 graduating eighth-graders were accepted at Lowell High (known for high-achieving arts programs as well as academic rigor), 17 were accepted at the School of the Arts Academy, and six went into the traditional School of the Arts (SOTA) program, for which students must audition. Congratulations!

Sad Mug on Bulldog Café

After almost 10 years in operation, the Bulldog Café is closing at James Lick. It began as a small coffee and muffin station set up to serve City College students attending night classes at the school. By the mid-'00s, it had become a thriving concession, staffed by volunteer parents, students, and teachers all year long, including summer session. But with City College moving its satellite campus to Everett Middle School this June, the Bulldog no longer will have enough customers to stay open.

Each year, the Bulldog was run by a few dedicated PTSA parents. Over the last two years, parents Cathy Ritter and Sarah Soman were the heroes who managed the café. Soman commandeered the volunteer staff, keeping the café open as much as humanly possible (as families who signed up to help also juggled soccer practices and rehearsals). She stayed on top of everybody and was always gracious. Ritter kept the café stocked with food by keeping a sharp eye on the café's cupboards and making endless runs to Costco and other stores to get City College favorites like bagels and fresh fruit.

In all, hundreds of James Lick parents over the years have dedicated many hours to the Bulldog, brewing the coffee and chatting up the college students

who lined up every night before class. Lick students helped just as often and did their homework during the slow times. As with most PTSA fundraisers, friendships were formed between families who otherwise never would have met, and the bonds strengthened ties at the school, making families' short, three-year experience much richer.

And something else has been richer: the café typically netted over \$20,000 a year, which has supported classroom supplies, dance class costumes, material for the student musicals, plus trips to central California, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Mexico.

Clearly, next year will be a rebuilding year for PTSA fundraising. The Silent Auction, which kicked it up a notch this year by several thousand dollars, will try to make even more next year, and parents are meeting over the summer to make plans for a new fundraising venture to replace the cash cow that was the Bulldog Café.

—Heidi Anderson

ALVARADO

Let the Games Begin

You can benefit Alvarado School by shopping at Just Awesome—the board game store at 816 Diamond Street (at 24th Street)—the week of June 7 to 13. Co-owner Erik Mantsch will donate 7 percent of the store's sales that week to Alvarado.

"Why 7 percent? It's just awesome!" says Mantsch, who has been a generous supporter of Alvarado and other neighborhood schools since he opened in December. Every Thursday, Mantsch brings games to Alvarado and hosts an after-school club, which he hopes to expand to two clubs divided by age next fall, he says. He also has donated to the auction and Carnival events at the school.

Several parents and students have discovered Just Awesome's "back room," which is set up for playing games all day. "Friday Night Fun," from 6 to 9 p.m., with pizza served at 8 p.m., is a popular night out for Alvarado families.

Art Goes to de Young

Alvarado's commitment to the arts earned its students a central role in

May's nine-day Young at Art Festival, the annual spring showcase of city student art at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum in Golden Gate Park.

Papier-mâché dragonflies from 10 students swarmed the museum's main entrance, luring visitors into the exhibit, where ceramic Victorian houses, papier-mâché skeletons, and self-portraits from 26 Alvarado artists joined nearly 2,000 other art projects.

This is the second time since the museum reopened in 2005 that Alvarado art has been prominently featured, says artist-in-residence Dan Stingle. The event also included more than 60 concerts from student and community musical groups, as well as film and video screenings of student work and dramatic performances. The museum expected about 10,000 people to attend.

Perfect Day for Dunking

Back on campus, this year's Carnival drew about 500 revelers, many of whom came to dunk a teacher in the water tank and throw a pie in the face of our principal, Robert Broecker. Scorching summer weather made the dunk tank a popular place to volunteer, and dozens of others spent time painting faces, coloring hair, and handing out prizes to eager students. Thank you for your support!

—Heather World

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
Robert Broecker, Principal
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
www.alvaradoschool.net

Fairmount Elementary School
Mary Lou Cranna, Principal
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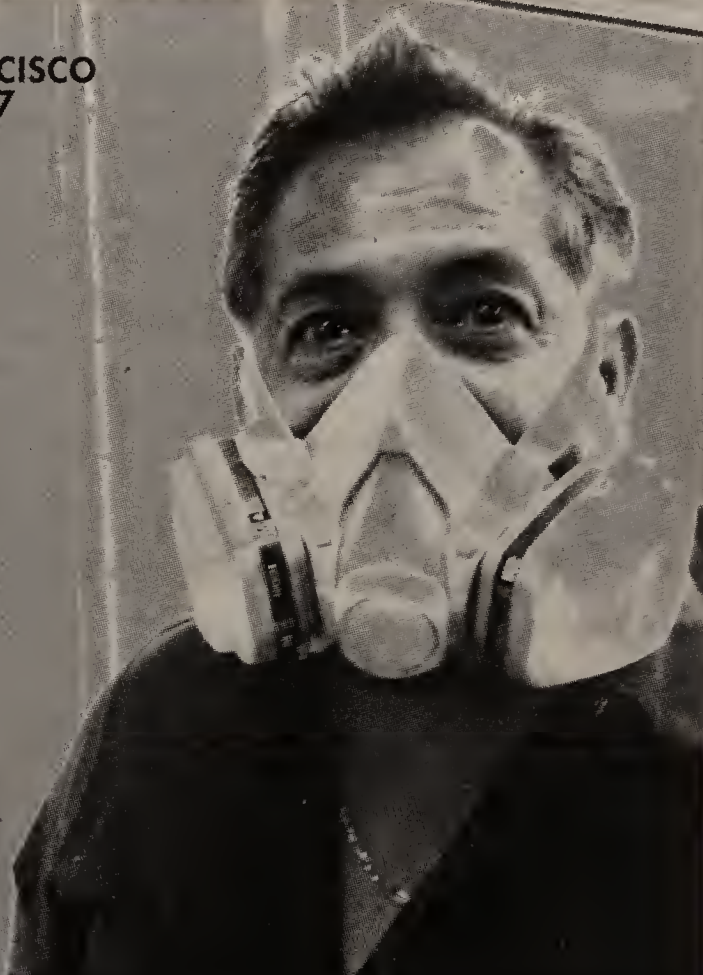
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

A Fur-Filled Month

Animals—from kittens and birds to chickens and grasshoppers—are the heroes of the children's book section this month at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street. Meanwhile, the California Grizzly Bear stars in a documentary shown for adults on Tuesday, June 9, at 7 p.m. For more information, drop by the branch, call 415-355-5707, or log on to www.sfpl.org. The library is open Tuesday through Sunday—see hours below.

Children's Fiction

- A city boy finds an injured bird and nurses it back to health in *How to Heal a Broken Wing* by Bob Graham. Ages 4 to 6.
- In *Chicken Said "Cluck!"* by Judyann Grant, Chicken is able to help out in the garden when a swarm of grasshoppers arrives. Ages 5 to 7.
- Yoon uses what she learned from a book her mother gave her about a girl who outwitted a tiger, in *Yoon and the Jade Bracelet* by Helen Recorvits. Ages 5 to 7.
- Allie starts a new school and gets a kitten in *The New Girl*, the second in the "Allie Finkel's Rules for Girls" series by Meg Cabot, author of *The Princess Diaries*. Ages 9 and up.

Children's Nonfiction

- America's diverse cultures and ethnic and religious backgrounds are explored state by state in *Children of the U.S.A.* by Maya Ajmera. Ages 7 and up.
- *Sandy's Circus: A Story About Alexander Calder* by Tanya Lee Stone is a picture-filled book about the sculptor's childhood and artistic development. Ages 7 and up.
- The lives of a civil rights leader and a German-born rabbi come together in *As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Hershel's Amazing March Toward Freedom*, by Richard Michelson. Ages 7 to 10.

Selected by Children's Librarian Carol Small

Adult Fiction

- Destiny and history collide to change the life of a movie projectionist in *The History of Now* by Daniel Klein, author of *Aristotle and an Aardvark Go to Washington*.
- *Everything Hurts*, by David Letterman writer Bill Scheft, is about a man who parodies self-help books but who can't find a cure for a pain in his leg.
- In fictional vignettes based on true events, Helen Humphries examines the 40 times between 1142 and 1895 that London's Thames River turned to solid ice, in *The Frozen Thames*.
- Chief Inspector Van Veeteren investigates a female killer bent on vengeance, in Håkan Nesser's *Woman with Birthmark*. The

book's first printing won the 2007 Best Novel prize awarded by the Swedish Crime Writers' Academy.

Adult Nonfiction

- In the updated *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters*, public radio and television journalist Cokie Roberts shares the personal stories of women who have inspired her, including civil rights activist Dorothy Height and mechanic Eva Oliver.
- *The Lincoln Anthology: Great Writers on His Life and Legacy from 1860 to Now*, edited by Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, includes more than 100 selections from writers such as Edmund Wilson, Gore Vidal, and Carl Sandburg.
- Prolific author John Updike completed *Endpoint and Other Poems* only weeks before his death from cancer in January 2009.
- Former *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Tom Zoellner examines the history, science, and politics behind *Uranium*, the strongest chemical element and "the rock that reshaped the world."

Annotations by Karol Barske, of the Voice staff

LIBRARY EVENTS

"Grizzly Road" for California Bears

■ Writer/director Sabrina Alonso shows *Grizzly Road*, a documentary about the sad fate of the California Grizzly Bear, on Tuesday, June 9, 7 to 8:15 p.m. The film includes rare photos, paintings, and film footage from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Book Club on Wednesdays

■ The *Noe Valley Book Group* invites you to its first meeting on Wednesday, June 17, at 7 p.m. Future meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. At the first meeting, participants will discuss choices and decide on the first book (which will be featured at the July meeting).

Music Jam with Dylan

■ Singer *Dylan Donkin* leads a half-hour music fest for kids at two times, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., on Tuesday, June 16.

Toddler Tales

■ Treat your baby or toddler, age 18 months to 3 years old, to books, rhymes, music, and motion at *Toddler Tales*, held on Tuesdays, June 9 and 30, at 10:15 a.m.

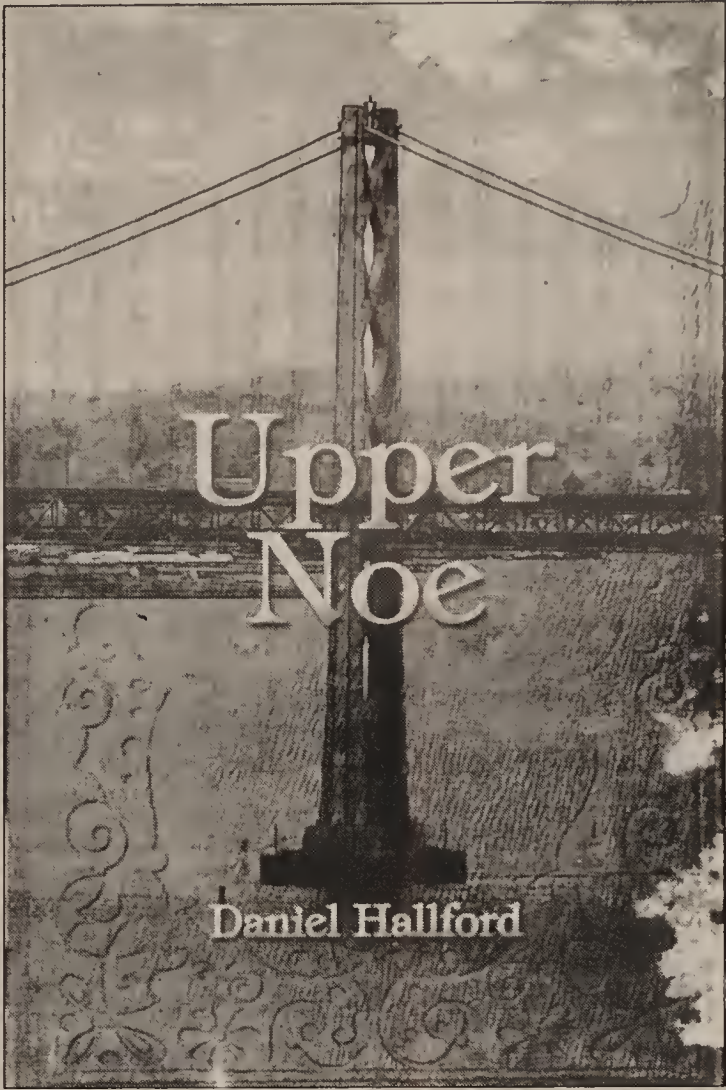
Family Story Time

■ The library invites you to *Family Story Time*, a read-aloud program for children 5 and younger, on Tuesdays, June 9 and 30, from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Preschool Films

■ Kids ages 3 to 5 can watch a half-hour show of *Short Films*, including "Alphabet," "Frog on His Own," and "Mole and the Rocket," on Tuesday, June 23, starting at 10:15 a.m. The program repeats at 11 a.m.

All events take place at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library at 451 Jersey Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. For information, call 355-5707.



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The next *Voice* will be the double issue July/August 2009, distributed in Noe Valley starting July 3.

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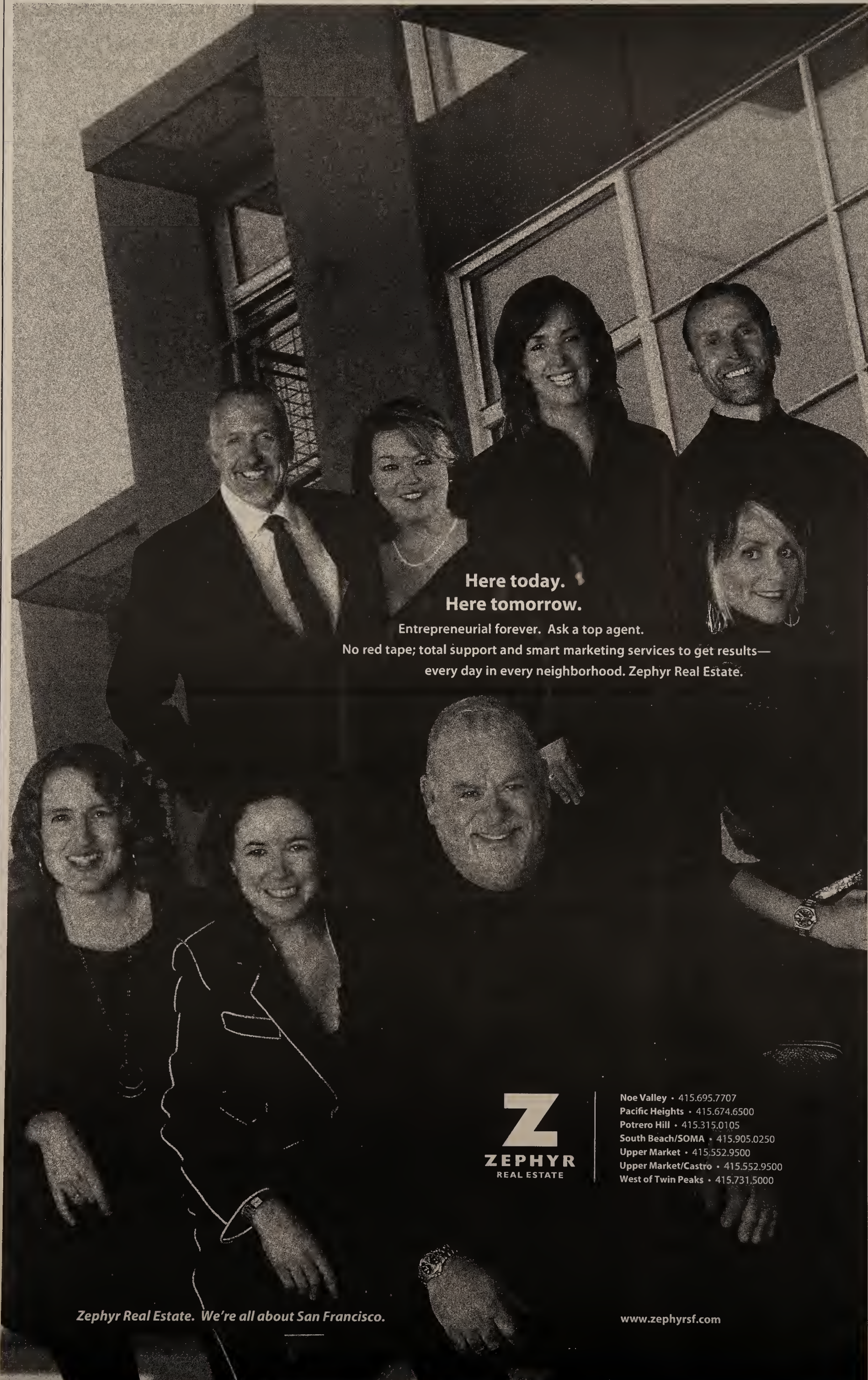


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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

On the Noe Valley Beat

By Mazook

THE DUFTY FOR MAYOR whispers have been thundering through Eureka and Noe valleys for months. So in May the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) decided to track down the source.

"It is no secret that I have been eyeing a run for mayor in 2011," confirms Supervisor Bevan Dufty, our District 8 representative, "since my second term as supervisor will end in 2010, and I will be termed out."

Dufty says he was a bit surprised that although he has not formally declared his mayoral candidacy, the *San Francisco Sentinel* endorsed him for the job in its May 18 issue.

"I was at a Harvey Milk Plaza demonstration [May 17] against Iraqi abuse of their LGBT people, when the *Sentinel's* Pat Murphy came over with a photographer. We both smiled into the camera, and click, the endorsement was in the paper the next day," says Dufty.

Why would you run for mayor, Bevan?

"I am the luckiest guy in the world to be able to work for the people in this city. I've been involved in our city government for the last 16 years, and I have learned you can make things work in city government by reaching out and finding common ground and bringing people together to get things done."

"During my term as supervisor, I have so enjoyed representing all the neighbor-

hoods in our district, and helping to solve neighborhood issues, whether big or small. I want to reach out and work for the whole city," says Dufty.

While it is too early, he says, for him to officially throw his hat in the ring, evidently it is not too early for no less than four people to declare their intentions to run for Dufty's District 8 supervisorial seat. Among the candidates thus far are PUC Assistant General Manager Laura Spanjian; Scott Wiener, who is a city attorney and current president of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association; Rebecca Prozan, assistant district attorney and Dufty's former legislative aide; and attorney and Board of Permit Appeals member Rafael Mandelman, who is the current president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and a former president of the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

Dufty says any one of the four would be worthy of succeeding him, but he is not endorsing anyone at this time (contrary to reports in the *Examiner*). "Any time any of [his job seekers] attends a neighborhood meeting in which I am appearing, I always introduce and praise each of them," he says. "I remember when I first started as a candidate for supervisor how good it was to be introduced at those many neighborhood meetings."

Speaking of elections, the Department Thereof has released the voter turnout in San Francisco for the May 19 special election. It's probably no surprise that the turnout for Noe Valley was a paltry 28.6 percent. Put another way: Of the 16,440 of you who dutifully registered to vote, only 4,701 actually voted. (Remember November, when 89 percent of us marked our ballots. Now *that's* an election.)

You also must know that voters across the state said an emphatic no to Sacramento's "Rainy Day Budget" solutions to the state's massive budget crisis. In San

Francisco, roughly 55 percent of the voters said no on 1A and 1C through 1E, but 52 percent voted Yes on 1B (schools) and 75 percent said yes to 1F, to bar salary increases for state legislators during budget deficit years.

For the record, District 8 includes Noe Valley, Glen Park, the Fairmount, Diamond Heights, Liberty Heights, Eureka Valley, and Dolores Park, to the Duboce Triangle, and Buena Vista Heights.



LAW & ORDER, NOE VALLEY: The NVBI has issued a red alert to all residents who park vehicles in zip codes 94114 and 94131, warning you to remove all items of personal property from plain view before leaving your vehicle. According to the SFPD police reports, cars are being "boosted" with greater frequency these days in our neighborhood. If you leave a briefcase, computer case, camera case, or anything else of apparent value on your car seat, the thieves will break your door window, reach in, take it, and run.

Captain David Lazar of Ingleside Police Station—Ingleside Station covers Noe Valley south of Cesar Chavez—commended two Ingleside officers in his "Captain's Message" last month for their "outstanding auto burglary arrest" on May 24 at 4:06 a.m.: "Officers McNamara and Lozano responded to a call regarding a vehicle theft in progress [at Dolores and 27th streets]. The subject was exiting the vehicle through a shattered window, when the officers arrived. The subject ran away from the officers but was later located in the back yard of a nearby residence," and placed under arrest.

Says Captain Lazar, "It is always best when you park your car anywhere on the street to make sure you lock your doors, have no valuables in plain view, and keep your glove box empty of anything of value."

As many of you already know, Captain Lazar took over the Ingleside command on April 18, having come from heading up the SFPD's Investigations Unit at the Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street. At 38 years old, he is the youngest police captain, and very proactive in the community. He is writing station crime reports and station activities every weekday, which he will provide to you, so you can keep up with the daily police blotter. To get on the captain's e-mail list, call Ingleside Station at 404-4000.

And for all you police blotter fans, the NVBI receives Noe Valley police reports daily by subscribing (for free) online to Everyblock.com, where an average of 15 to 30 reports appear, describing all kinds of police action, from robbery and burglary to traffic stops and car tows. Everyblock has neighborhood-specific reports that also include real estate listings, Department of Public Health inspections, and business reviews. Check it out.



EMPTY STOREFRONTS: Vacant stores in Downtown Noe Valley are certainly not in short supply these days. The remodeled space recently vacated by AAA at 4045A 24th Street, next to Wells Fargo Bank, is being offered for \$12,000 per month. It's got 2,800 square feet of ground-floor retail space and 1,200 square feet of office space in a mezzanine. According to the realtor for the owner, Sara Sanders of SRS Real Estate Partners, the space is a sublease, with four more years left in the term.

Says Sanders, "We've had it on the market for about three weeks now, but we have not received any offers yet." She says there has been interest from retailers of men's and women's clothing, a child development center, and a title company.

Next door to AAA is the vacant store

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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OIL CHANGE

RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

once occupied by the women's fashion boutique Riki. The work being done on the interior does not necessarily mean the place has been rented. BPM realty agent Tom Redmond says the contractors are doing needed foundation work and have built a new bathroom, but there are not yet any offers for the "approximately 1,200 square feet of space." The rent? Redmond would only say: "All terms are negotiable, but we are looking for a clean retail [tenant]" for the space. "No food," says Redmond.

Farther down 24th Street, there have been no takers for the Streetlight Records store. The rent that was being asked at the beginning of the year has been reduced from \$12,000 to \$8,000 per month, according to the owner's realty agent Mark Kaplan.

"We have received several offers," says Kaplan, "but have not leased the premises yet." He says there have been people interested in opening up a training gym, a lighting store, a picture-framing shop, a yoga studio, and a "by-the-hour daycare center." That might work.

There are no renters yet for the 700-square-foot space formerly occupied by Simply Chic (next to and in front of) Elisa's Spa. "We are asking for \$4,000 a month," says Pedro Ining (Elisa's son), "but make an offer." Ining says, "We have had interest in the store for everything from a yoga studio to a yogurt business."

Across 24th from Simply Chic, at the old Wells Fargo Bank space (they moved up the street), the owner has advertised the 700-square-foot store on Craigslist for \$4,000 per month, but there are apparently no takers. The owner did not want to make any comments to the *Voice*.

You can put the lock on a rumor that Locksmith Central is moving its shop across the street to the smaller store just vacated by Ritz Camera. Says locksmith Mike Young, "We were contemplating making the move, but decided against it because I have a very fair landlord now. Things became too complicated, from signing a 20-page lease to moving all our equipment and over a thousand keys to the new location." But, Young adds, "the rent was very fair and five hundred dollars a month is less than I pay now."

The space that was formerly occupied by Rose Quartz and currently by the Jewelry Box (opened by the owners of the building) will soon be filled by Successories, a jewelry business owned by designer Pamela Wiston-Charbonneau. Wiston-Charbonneau, who is famous for designing rings and pendants made from the buttons she collects from all over the world—she has over 70 works on display at the de Young Museum—has recently been sharing space at Lisa Violette Designs.

"The 200 square feet of [Jewelry Box]

space will have my office, retail showroom, and storage, and I plan on opening the store in the middle of June," says an excited Wiston-Charbonneau.

At press time, the NVBI got a tip that Noe Knit across the street from Bell/Whole Foods would "close next Tuesday [June 9]."

However, the Noe Knit storefront won't be vacant long. Kate Rosenberger has announced she is moving Phoenix Books to the 1,400-square-foot space June 15.

Rosenberger sounds ecstatic. "The space is twice as big as what we have now, and the rent is very reasonable. We will sublet from Noe Knit and then have another ten years on the lease."

She goes on to say, "I have been on a month-to-month lease for a long time now, and I've been looking to relocate on 24th Street, after being in business in Noe Valley for 24 years. This new store will celebrate our 25th anniversary in the neighborhood," says Rosenberger.

That means, of course, that the storefront on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg will be available on July 1. Or will it?



MORE STORED-UP NEWS: For those of you who read last month's "Store Trek," about the designer workshop and clothing boutique at 665 San Jose Avenue (at Valley Street) called Arara, and have attempted to visit the shop, you probably were surprised to find it closed.

"I found this great spot on Church Street, so I am moving to the larger space, including a lovely back yard," says Arara's founder, Larissa Verdussen, who sent a note of apology. "I will be teaming up with two other artists/designers, Jessica Miller and Andrea Lamadora, to offer a wider range of clothing lines and accessories, as well as a display of local artists' works."

The name of the new shop, located at 1513 Church (across from Comerford Alley), has yet to be determined, but should open mid-June. Lamadora says they plan to have fashion shows at the shop and host "tea parties in our lovely garden" to showcase the works of the various artists and clothing designers.

Up the street, Kati Kim is turning over the keys to her 1767 Church Street store, formerly called Church Street Apothecary, to Deirdre Nagayama and Stacy Rodgers. They are the designer/manufacturers of the "She-bible" clothing line, which they sell wholesale worldwide to almost 100 stores, and also maintain an online store.

"We both were born and raised in Noe Valley, and although we don't live there anymore, we think it is one of the greatest neighborhoods in the Bay Area," says Nagayama. "So when we heard that Katie (one of our customers) was closing her Church Street space to focus on her Haight Street store, we decided it was time to move our design offices, which we can really have anywhere, from Townsend Street (right across from the ballpark) into a perfect space in our old



A putter tries out the third hole at the exciting "Minigolf 2009" tournament, organized for the 13th and final time, the founders say, at the 24th Street home of Steve Fox and Leslie Crawford (shown at right). The "Crawfox" family project, which is also a fundraiser for good causes, has been a beloved event in Noe Valley, attended by hundreds. Photo by Pamela Gerard

neighborhood. For us there is a bonus, because we will be able to sell our line retail as well."

The name of their new store will be Curator, and it will be open to the public "sometime in July." Kim will focus her energy on her remaining store in the city, called Doe, located on Haight Street near Pierce.



FORE! Over 200 people showed up at the Leslie Crawford/Steve Fox 24th Street home on Sunday, May 17, for a celebrity miniature golf event. The party featured a wacky indoor (and out) miniature golf course that the couple, with the help of their two children, Sam and Molly, set up in their house and back yard. This year's "Crawfox Minigolf" tournament was a benefit for the East Bay Children's Book Project. Crawford provided not only the course but also the putters (they have 40 of them), golf balls, and lots of refreshments.

"We've been doing this almost annually for the past 15 years," says Crawford, "but this is our last one."

Sadly, there will be no fourth annual Noe Valley Garden Tour, which was originally set for June 13. For the last three years, the event was sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley. Says the FNV's Richard May, "This year, many people backed out of the tour, and only two gardens were eventually volunteered."

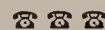


BOOMING BABIES: Noe Valley 94114 is reportedly in the middle of a baby boom. *San Jose Mercury News* reporter Mike Swift wrote in a May 25 story that "along 24th Street in Noe Valley, the Baby Bjorn carriers are out in force."

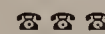
According to Swift, the U.S. Census reports "births in the 94114 zip code, which includes Noe Valley and the Castro, the historical center for San Francisco gay life, were about 50 percent higher in 2007 than in the mid-1990s." While "urban enclaves like Noe Valley and the Castro may sound like unlikely places for

a baby boom...they are at the vanguard of a national urban trend that, according to U.S. Census estimates, has given San Francisco its biggest brood of young children since the early 1970s." Of course, Bevan Dufty, who is raising a daughter with a lesbian partner, was quoted as saying, "There has been a demographic boom in the gay community having kids."

In fact, census figures show a 24 percent jump in San Francisco's under-age-5 population, Swift reports.



ERRATA-TAT-TAT: The misquote you read in this column last month, attributed to *Examiner* Executive Editor Jim Pimentel, caused a small ripple in the newspaper world. It was a Mazookamistake. We quoted Pimentel as saying, "We have 50 reporters now, and are looking to hire more..." In fact, Pimentel said, "We have 50 in editorial staff, and are looking to hire more..." Apologies to all you readers, and to Mr. Pimentel and the *Examiner*. From here on, more care will be taken with the scribbles and doodles in this reporter's notebook.



THAT'S ALL YOU ALL. But before I go, here are the answers to last month's pop quiz. In 1897, J.A. Meyer built the first automobile in California, the Pioneer, at 4175 24th Street. His grandson lives there now (and so does the S.F. Mystery Bookstore). The Pioneer is currently on display at the Oakland Museum.

And back in the 1960s, the spot now occupied by Cooks Boulevard was a unique ice cream store named after its owner, Magnolia Thunderpussy. Magnolia would make home deliveries in Noe Valley, and promised that if the ice cream was melted when it was delivered, there would be no charge. Her outrageous erotic ice cream specialties included one called "Montana Banana"—two balls of ice cream, a whole banana, whipped cream, and chocolate shavings.

Ciao for now. ■

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Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro Farmers' Market

Wednesdays, 4 to 8 p.m., on Noe between Market and Beaver
Sponsor: Merchants of Upper Market & Castro; www.CastroMerchants.com

Church Street Professionals

Contacts: Gary Norman, 282-5685, or Susan Levinson, 647-3007
E-mail: gary.norman@edwardjones.com
Meetings: Call or e-mail for information.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

E-mail: dhic123@gmail.com
Website: www.doloresheights.org
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Scott Wiener, President, 437-9414
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Third Thursday of January; March, May, July, September, and November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St. (upstairs)
Website: www.evpa.org

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is held the day before Mother's Day.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association

Contact: Gregg Brooks
E-mail: sfryic@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: E-mail for details.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774
E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday (call or e-mail to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contact: Alexandra Torre
E-mail: noe_park@atorre.com
Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
Meetings: E-mail or check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310
E-mail: kendall@microcounsel.com
Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.
Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a screenwriting course.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: noestrolls@aol.com
Weekly Stroll: Thursday at 11 a.m., departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St.
For details, visit www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
Meetings: Third Wednesday, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m.
Parking available in lot off Elizabeth.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., on 24th between Vicksburg and Sanchez. Also, Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m., in the parking lot of the future Whole Foods, 24th between Sanchez and Noe.
Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4101 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Gwen Sanderson, 550-7577
E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com
Meetings: Last Tuesday, Bank of America, 4098 24th St., 9 a.m.
Mixers: Last Friday, 6 to 8 p.m.; for location call or see www.noevalleymerchants.com.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536
E-mail: mfasulis@yahoo.com
Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See website.

See Jane Run Running Programs

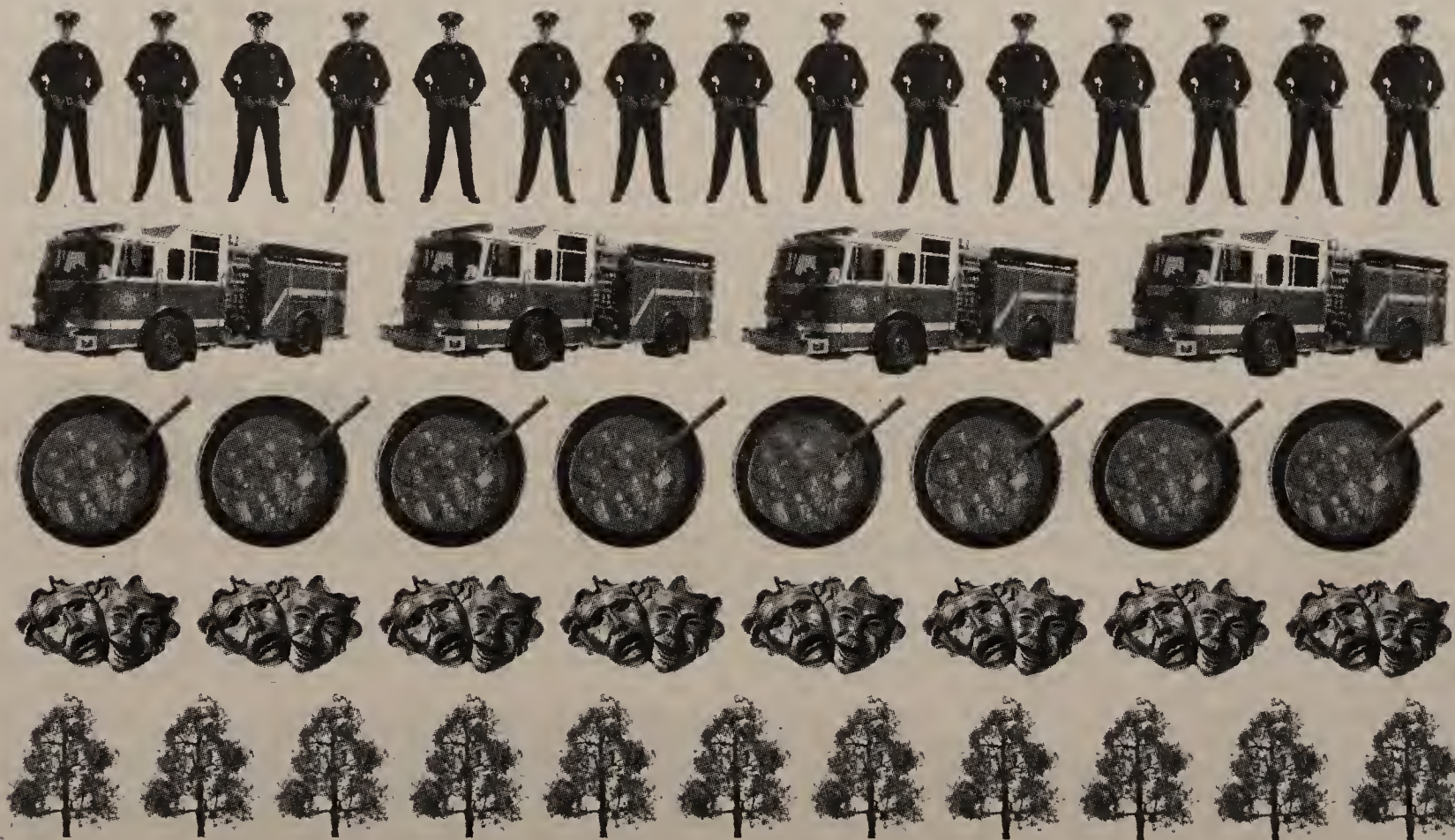
Contacts: Shauna Nyborg, 415-401-8338; Deb DeFanti, 415-839-9393
E-mail: events@seejanerun.com
Address: 3910 24th St. (at Sanchez)
Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com/t-Training.aspx>

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Website: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third or fourth Thursday (call to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.



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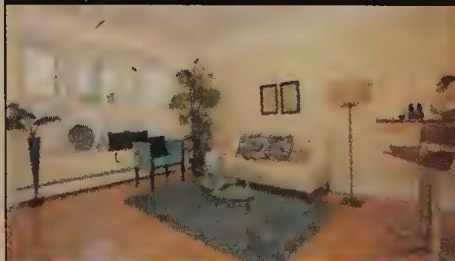
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The Big Strike

BY DICK MEISTER

THIS YEAR marks the 75th anniversary of what's known in labor lore as "the Big Strike"—the remarkable event that brought open warfare to San Francisco's waterfront, led to one of the very few general strikes in U.S. history, and played a key role in spreading unionization nationwide. A leader of that strike was Harry Bridges, a man whom some Noe Valley residents remember as a neighbor. Bridges lived for many years on Kronquist Court, the half block off 27th Street between Castro and Diamond.

In May of the dark Depression year of 1934, longshoremen—the workers responsible for loading and unloading cargo from ships—finally rebelled against the wretched conditions they toiled under in San Francisco, then one of the world's busiest ports.

In those days, longshoremen were not guaranteed jobs, no matter how skilled or experienced they were. They had to report to the docks every morning and hope a hiring boss would pick them from among the thousands of desperate job seekers who jammed the waterfront for the daily "shapeup." Hiring bosses rarely chose those who raised serious complaints about pay and working conditions or otherwise challenged them, but were quite partial to those who slipped them bribes or bought them drinks at nearby bars.

Even those who were hired weren't sure how long they'd work. They might be needed for only a few hours or for as many as 18, and they usually worked nonstop. They might work a day or so, then lie around idle and unpaid for several days, sometimes weeks.

They were certain, however, that greater and greater speed and more and more work would be demanded of them, given the fierce competition for jobs and the employers' lack of concern for safety.

"They were always hollering at you, 'What's the matter with you guys? Hurry up! Hurry up!'" recalled former longshoreman Jerry Bulcke. "And if we wanted to work tomorrow, we had to hurry up."

For all that, they were paid a mere 85 cents an hour. That brought the average longshoreman about \$10 a week, low pay even by Depression standards.

The men had a union—the International Longshoremen's Association—but the ILA was a conservative group tightly controlled by its notoriously corrupt national officers. The New York-based officers paid little attention to the needs and desires of the rank-and-file union members. However, they were quite attentive to the wishes of the employers and the employers' government allies.

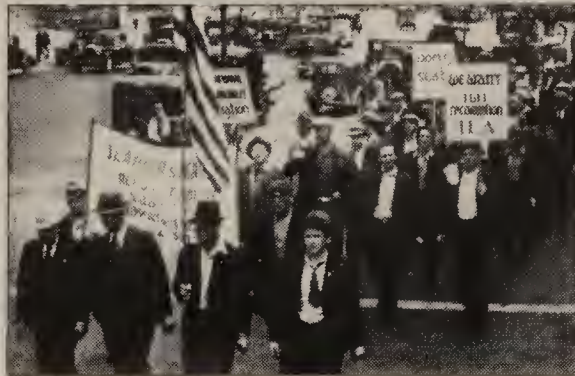
A Plea for Fair Treatment

What the longshoremen wanted above all was to end the indignity and insecurity of the "shapeup." They wanted to decide for themselves how the dock work should be allocated, so as to give each of them a fair share and enable them to work regular hours on a steady basis, with adequate rest periods and at decent pay and under conditions determined in genuine negotiations with employers.

The longshoremen demanded, in short, a strong union under firm direction of its members, and a hiring hall that they would control.

The 32,000 dock workers and their leaders—among them a young Australian sailor turned longshoreman named Harry Bridges—were denounced as dangerous radicals, bent on violent revolution, by ILA officers and other conservative union leaders, as well as by employers, politicians, and the press. They were charged with carrying out a communist plot aimed at seizing control of the government.

But despite the heavy opposition, the longshoremen managed to shut down every port along the 1,900 miles of coastline between San Diego and Seattle. They drew their most important support from teamsters, who defied their own union officers and refused to cross longshoremen's picket lines to pick up or deliver cargo, and from



The city's longshoremen go on strike in 1934. Photo courtesy Bancroft Library

sailors and other seagoing workers, who called their own strikes over demands similar to those of the longshoremen.

After 57 days, employers, backed by state and local government officials, issued an ultimatum to the longshoremen: call off the strike or they would bring in strikebreakers under police escort to forcibly open the ports. Which is what employers tried to do on July 5, 1934—a day known in West Coast ports as "Bloody Thursday." The major attempt was launched in San Francisco, where nearly 1,000 heavily armed policemen battled several thousand longshoremen and supporters.

Acrid clouds of tear gas enveloped the combatants. Gunfire crackled. Trucks were overturned and burned, and boxcars set on fire. Shouting, screaming men grappled, swung clubs, bats, and sticks, tossed bricks and stones. Dozens fell bleeding on the docks and nearby streets.

At day's end, 2,000 National Guardsmen in full battle dress, armed with bayoneted rifles and machine guns, marched in at the governor's order to occupy the battle zone. The fighting had ceased, but by then two men were dead, killed by police bullets, and more than 100 were wounded or seriously injured. Some 800 people were under arrest.

Four others were killed, and hundreds were hurt or arrested at ports in the Pacific Northwest and southern California. But it was San Francisco that drew the most attention and a great public outpouring of sympathy for the strikers.

Funeral March on Market

More than 40,000 San Franciscans joined in a two-mile-long funeral cortege for the men who had been killed on their city's docks. They marched slowly up Market Street—men, women, and children, eight to ten abreast—behind coffins laid on crepe-draped, flower-strewn flatbed trucks. Nothing was heard save for the scrape and shuffle of feet and the somber strains of a union band playing Beethoven's funeral march.

Pat Tobin, who was there, remembered that "despite the grimness of the moment, one also sensed a mood of confidence and pride. On this day, workers owned San Francisco. They had stood fast and somehow recognized they would eventually win."

Public support continued to mount, until a week later it erupted into a citywide general strike. As the longshoremen's Harry Bridges said, other workers were very much aware that "if they allowed police to shoot down strikers, or resolve labor problems by bringing in the National Guard, we were all done for."

Emergency services continued, but otherwise San Francisco came to a virtual standstill. Most businesses were closed, most factories, most food markets and restaurants, most shops and offices, most service stations. Streetcars and just about everything else stopped running.

The strike, as author Tillie Olsen said, "showed our interconnectedness, how we depended on each other for the everyday tasks of life.... You could not help but have been impressed with the fact that without the labor of working people, nothing happened...."

Vigilante committees and police squads raided and badly damaged the headquarters and meeting rooms of unions and of the Communist Party and other left-wing and liberal groups that actively supported the strike, as well as the homes of their leaders.

Civil authorities and the press, declaring the strike an insurrection, openly encouraged the violence and the jailing, on charges of "subversion," of 500 victims of the violence.

The state was about to declare martial law, but after four days, government officials and the conservative leaders of the American Federation of Labor, who controlled the city's union hierarchy, prevailed. San Francisco's Labor Council voted to call off the general strike even though longshoremen remained on strike. The strikers nevertheless scored one of the most important victories in U.S. labor history.

The Hand of Roosevelt

Victory came through President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had ignored the entreaties of employers and state officeholders to halt the supposed insurrection. Certain the battle was waged in support of a legitimate demand for workers' rights, Roosevelt allowed the general strike to run its course and then appointed an arbitration panel to settle the dispute. The panel granted longshoremen almost all they sought.

Employers were required to formally recognize and bargain with the dock workers' union, raise pay, establish a standard workweek, and abolish the "shapeup." All hiring was to be done through union-operated hiring halls, with jobs handed out in rotation so work could be shared equally.

It took another two years, but eventually seafaring unions also won recognition, higher pay, regular hours, and their own hiring halls.

The dock workers' union continued to operate as a local of the ILA, which not only opposed the strike but also opposed the local's policy of organizing workers regardless of their race or politics and its attempt to form a union that would encompass all maritime trades.

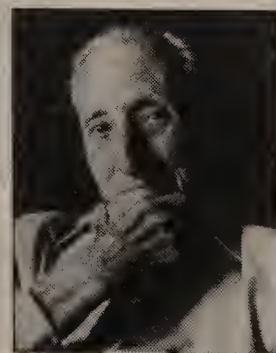
Within three years, however, the West Coast longshoremen set out on their own in partnership with the warehousemen, who worked closely with them. Their International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) soon became one of the most powerful, democratic, progressive, and influential of all unions.

The ILWU led the drives of the fledgling Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) that brought unionization to workers throughout the West, in mines and mills, in stores and factories, just about everywhere.

The longshoremen's union, their struggle to create it, and the general strike the struggle inspired were extremely important signals that working Americans could finally win the basic rights so long denied them.

"We forced the employers to treat us as equals, to sit down and talk to us about the work we do, how we do it, and what we get paid for it," Bridges recalled shortly before his death in 1990.

"We showed the world that when working people get together and stick together, there's little they can't do. We showed the world that united working people could stand against guns and tear gas, against the press and the courts, against whatever they threw at us."



Harry Bridges in his later years

Twenty-eighth Street resident Dick Meister has lived in Noe Valley for 40 years. He is a former labor correspondent for the San Francisco Chronicle and reporter for KQED-TV's Newsroom. You may contact him through his website, www.dickmeister.com.

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